

Fire Helicopter Pilot (3563)  
Task List

Operates Los Angeles Fire Department helicopters and performs various high-risk emergency, rescue and firefighting missions; transports fire medical personnel; transports injured persons or patients to medical facilities, determines aircraft mission suitability, supervises, coordinates, and directs all activities in and around Fire Department helicopters; ensures maintenance and timely repairs of helicopters; conducts pilot training and evaluates pilot proficiency, plans, schedules, and directs aircraft flight activities and other related work.

**OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, AND USE OF AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT**

1. Operates Fire Department rotary craft, which may include Bell 206 series (or equivalent) and AW 139, and performs maneuvers in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration rules and Department rules and regulations in order to respond to emergency and non-emergency calls.
2. Conducts daily pre-flight checks, which includes visual and physical inspection of aircraft radios, exterior of aircraft (doors, fuselage, landing gear, rotors, tail, etc.), and all equipment carried on aircraft (e.g., hoist, loudhailer, night sun) to ensure all is in proper working order and the aircraft is in prime condition and readiness for any emergency or mission.
3. Reviews Tachometer readings in A.M. and P.M. on a daily basis and compares for accuracy with the previous day's readings noted in the flight logbook.
4. Checks Squawk book and aircraft logs for aircraft maintenance times to see if any maintenance is due.
5. Enters requests for repairs or maintenance needed on helicopters that were identified during pre-flight checks into Squawk book.
6. Reports to Pilot IV when an aircraft needs repair work to damages or maintenance is required and when General Services is notified to complete the work.
7. Checks the equipment carried on the aircraft (e.g., cargo net, external slings, floatation rescue basket, aerial rescue platform, rope, Helitac bag), depending on the use of the helicopter in order to make sure that the equipment inventories for both the station and aircraft are fully accounted for.
8. Verifies that all equipment carried on the aircraft meets readiness standards (e.g., aerial rescue platform is clean, Helitac bag is complete, hoist equipment is in proper working order) in order to meet any emergency need at any time.
9. Reports repair needs through proper channels when equipment is missing or in need of repair and completes appropriate log entries and paperwork.

10. Conducts a system check at least once a day as part of the pre-flight inspection (e.g. checking the fuel, foam concentrate, and oil levels of aircrafts), and notifies GSD mechanic when fluids need to be added, in order to ensure the aircraft is in prime condition and ready for use.
11. Operates fuel tender and assists in refueling aircraft when necessary.
12. Operates tug and auxiliary power unit or battery packs to assist in preparing helicopter for use.
13. Operates forklift when necessary to assist in the maintenance and upkeep of the Air Operations facility.
14. Cleans station facilities and keeps hangar and apparatus floor clear in order for the aircraft to be readily deployed for any type of mission.

## **EMERGENCY & NON-EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

15. Performs and trains for emergency and non-emergency operations such as: search and rescue missions, hoist rescues in rough or inaccessible terrain, swift water rescues, transports patients at multi-casualty incidents, transports triage teams and medical supplies, performs aerial reconnaissance for Incident Commander, and acts as air ambulance for inaccessible areas, jammed or grid-locked freeways, incident to hospital transports, and inter-facility transports.
16. Performs and trains for aerial firefighting operations at brush fires including water drops to aid in extinguishing grass/brush fires, protecting exposures, personnel and equipment, delivering equipment and crews, laying supply lines up steep and rough terrain, providing aerial reconnaissance for Incident Commander, providing aerial mapping of the brush fire terrain, picking up members and equipment, and pulling hose out of inaccessible areas after the fire.
17. Transports emergency medical personnel to incidents as well as victims from incidents to designated locations using an aircraft.
18. Performs emergency operations during high-rise fires by observing the involved building, removing trapped people from the roof, delivering firefighters and equipment to the roof, and using the hoist to rescue trapped people from upper floors.
19. Provides intelligence information with personal electronic devices to the Command Post during emergencies, such as brush fires, high-rise fires, structure fires, hazardous material incidents, and floods and earthquakes.
20. Operates Night Sun (an externally mounted high-intensity 30,000,000 candlepower searchlight) to provide illumination at structure fires, brush fires, and search and rescues, for the safety of personnel in rough terrain and other emergency incidents when needed.
21. Uses night vision goggles at various missions, including to locate lost or trapped people in search and rescue missions; locate hot spots at brush fires; scan

surrounding areas at structure fires; identify hot storage tanks, drums or trailers at hazardous material incidents; and to locate victims after floods and earthquakes.

22. Monitors radio communications in the Flight Operations Room, including communications with the Fire Department's Metropolitan Fire Communications (MFC), Department aircraft, and other agencies, to assist in arranging for fueling of helicopters, staffing for relief of pilots, and other needs that pilots encounter during emergency missions.
23. Checks weather information daily through various sources (e.g., internet, radio, news) for possibility of brush fires, and safety issues related to flying (e.g., fog, high winds).
24. Performs non-emergency missions such as: surveying, videotaping, and photographing fire prevention problems; gathering information for pre-fire planning; surveying first-in districts; mapping areas, videotaping actual incidents for training and critique purposes; patrolling high hazards; and assisting in arson activities on an infrequent or as needed basis.

## **HELITAC OPERATIONS**

25. Acts as crew chief during air ambulance and hoist rescue missions by communicating with pilot(s) regarding readiness for departure, guiding pilot's maneuvers/movements required to complete operations; performing hoist operator duties during hoist rescue missions; and is responsible for the overall rescue operation and supervision of rescue personnel.
26. Acts as safety observer by looking out for other aircraft, obstructions, or any other safety hazards and reports them to the pilot in command.
27. Manages control of the cabin and safety of any passengers on board, especially during in-flight emergencies, such as forced landing, in-flight fire, or ditching of the aircraft.

## **SUPERVISION**

28. Supervises, evaluates, certifies, conducts drills, and trains lower-level pilots on areas such as (e.g., basic flight training, mountain training, advanced procedures training) in order to update knowledge and improve firefighting and rescue skills.
29. Trains Air Operations members during technical drills in the operations and mechanics of aircraft, the use of equipment carried on aircraft, and Air Operations strategies for various missions.
30. Conducts in-house pilot training for Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) practical flight tests, and advanced training and ratings so that Air Operation's pilots can attain their Certified Flight Instructor rating, Instrument rating, and aircraft specific type rating.

31. Trains, administers/proctors oral and manipulative exams, evaluates, and certifies pilots/trainees and fire crews on helitac equipment and rescue procedures.
32. Determines if missions should be undertaken by considering factors such as availability of staff, weather, aircraft readiness, and time required to reach destination.
33. Oversees paramedics and other Fire Department personnel assisting in Air Operations emergency incidents.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

34. Assists the Section Commander in planning, assigning, and directing the work of the Air Operations Section.
35. Assists Section Commander with preparation of the budget and forecasts for the Air Operations Section.

## **RECORD KEEPING**

36. Maintains and updates LAFD maps, incident packets, and various manuals such as aircraft log books, operating manuals, and equipment information by ordering and inserting new pages to replace outdated or worn pages in order to keep each book current and the pages in good condition.
37. Writes in a variety of logs and completes forms (e.g., Squawk book, Pilot reading file, daily tach time report, weekly aircraft and equipment checks) and requests needed facility and aircraft repairs as necessary in order to maintain a written record of all maintenance, repairs, and status of the aircraft, equipment, and station.
38. Tracks and orders necessary supplies to ensure proper inventory levels are maintained for the Air Operations Section.
39. Tracks accumulated flight hours for each aircraft in order to ensure that proper maintenance and inspection requirements and documentation are in line with the Federal Aviation Administration requirements and to know when to schedule Air Operations fleet assignments around an aircraft that is under maintenance or repairs.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

40. Reads LAFD maps and develops complete familiarity with the Fire Department's areas of responsibility in order to locate incidents and determine the safest and most correct response routes and landing areas for emergency and non-emergency landings.
41. Reads manuals such as the Manual of Operations, LAFD Rules and Regulations, the manufacturer's operating manual for the equipment and aircraft, FAA regulations, Aviation Training and Operating Procedures Standardization (ATOPS), and other

publications, in order to stay updated on Department policy and be proficient with the operation of the aircraft.

42. Communicates via radio with Air Traffic Control, Incident Commanders, other aircraft, and other agencies to coordinate flight operations during emergencies and non-emergencies.
43. Interacts with other City departments (e.g., LAPD) as well as other agencies (e.g., Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol) in order to share information.
44. Participates in advanced training courses conducted by outside agencies, such as Bell and Leonardo Helicopters and Flight Safety International.
45. Files hazard reports by using the Safety Management System (SMS) to improve the safety of operations.