

# FORT COLLINS/LOVELAND S.E.A.T. BASE OPERATIONS PLAN

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## **OBJECTIVE**

The Fort Collins/Loveland S.E.A.T. Base will provide a base of operations for the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Single Engine Air Tankers (S.E.A.T.). The mission of the S.E.A.T. is to provide an initial attack air resource for the wildfire suppression agencies on the front range of Colorado. Base operations include maintaining preparedness; taking dispatch orders; mixing, loading and quality testing of retardant. This base is not capable of supporting heavy tanker operations.

## **ORGANIZATION**

The Fort Collins/Loveland S.E.A.T. Base is a Colorado State Forest Service resource. The CSFS State Fire Staff is responsible for the supervision of the Base. The Base is operated by a S.E.A.T. Manager (SEMG) who also acts as the Base Manager. The SEMG's responsibilities include: maintaining safe operations; maintaining preparedness; mixing and loading retardant safely and efficiently; liaison with local dispatch, wildland fire suppression communities, and airport authorities; keep pilot informed of local dispatch policies, radio frequencies, etc. and act as contract inspector. Additional help for loading will be provided through the CSFS, Loveland Fire Station #4 that's housed at the airport or Fort Collins Dispatch Center (FTC) on an as needed basis. S.E.A.T. s will be dispatched by FTC.

## **OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

The assigned S.E.A.T.s will be available between 0900 hours and 1800 unless otherwise directed by FTC. The contract requires that the pilots have 2 days off in every 14 consecutive days. The days off are negotiable with FTC. Pilots will be ready for dispatch/takeoff within 15 minutes. During periods of extreme fire danger S.E.A.T.s will be loaded. At the discretion of FTC, during periods of low fire danger, pilots will go on 1 hour call-back.

The base uses D-75 gum thickened retardant. It has the capacity to store 1200 gallons. Loading a 800 gallon capacity S.E.A.T. takes approximately 5 minutes. Water for base operations is supplied from a fire hydrant..

Wash down facilities will be available for the ramp and aircraft. On days off the S.E.A.T.s will be parked in a suitable location so as not to interfere normal operations at the base or airport.

## **DISPATCH PRIORITY**

In the event there's more than one S.E.A.T. assigned to the base, the missions will be rotated in an equitable manner.

## **ABORTED MISSIONS**

In the case of an aborted mission, aircraft will not land loaded. At any time during an emergency, the pilot may drop all or part of the load as he deems necessary. An emergency drop site in the airport area if needed, is located west of runway (33-15). The non-emergency abort area will be provided by dispatch at the time it is needed.

## **AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE**

It is the responsibility of the pilot to assure his aircraft is kept in an airworthy condition. If the pilot orders major maintenance during duty hours, the pilot should immediately coordinate this with the SEMG. It is the responsibility of the pilots to wash their planes. The Base Manager will see that there is enough hose and pressurized water for that purpose.

## **REFUELING**

Pilots should notify the Base at least 10 minutes prior to arrival if they will require fuel. The Base Manager or dispatcher will then alert fueling personnel. The tanker pilot may elect to call the FBO direct via UNICOM, 122.7 . Jet A, 100LL, and 80/87 are all available on the field. S.E.A.T.s may refuel in the pit reloading if fuel is immediately available. Refueling and loading will not be done at the same time. The FBO's normally operate from 0600 thru 2130 local time but would be glad to service aircraft before or after those hours with some notice. A local phone number for refueling services is (970) 667-9038.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Refer to the attached Northern Front Range Interagency Radio Communication Plan, Revised 4/26/04. Ramp frequency at Fort Collins/Loveland S.E.A.T. Base is 163.100. The local dispatch frequency for air tankers will be 172.325 or 168.650. This may be used within a line-of-sight area of the base, being used out to about 70 miles of the base on many occasions. Air tankers should notify dispatch when off the ground and establish a 15 minute check-in procedure with a ground station on a frequency to be determined at the time of dispatch. Air to air communications between air tankers or with the Air Attack Supervisor, or Air Tanker Coordinator while within the area of the incident will be on a predetermined VHF aircraft frequency. Frequencies will be placed on the dispatch order given to the pilot prior to takeoff.

# SAFETY

## **Lead Planes**

Lead planes are mandatory when:

1. Working in a congested area.
2. When two or more airtankers are working an incident at the same time.
3. When the pilot is not IA rated.

## **Retardant**

Retardant spillage will be washed down immediately

## **Refueling**

No smoking in the loading or refueling areas.

All tankers must shut down prior to refueling. Hot loading

will be done under the supervision of the SEMG. All

Regional hot loading procedures will be in effect according to the R-2 plan.

## **Flight Hazards**

A flight hazard map is located in the Base office and will be consulted prior to dispatch. Note the low altitude military routes.

## **Other**

Fire resistant clothing is required as per contract. See

C-35,3.5. Aircraft engines will not be started until the “thumbs up” sign has been received from the signalperson.

Guidelines established in the Northern Front Range Interagency Aviation Operation Plan will be followed.

## **AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Identifier: FNL

Elevation - 5016

1 - paved runway

33-15 is 8500X100 Weight limits are S-70,000 D-85,000 DT-130,000

RWY 33-15 Standard Traffic Pattern

Communications: CTAF 122.7

Denver Center 125.9

Runway Lights, 122.7 3XLow 5XMed 7Xhigh

## **Front Range frequencies and dispatch centers:**

Jeffco Dispatch – 168.625

Ft Collins Dispatch - 168.650 (Arapaho/Roosevelt N.F.) (North)

Pueblo Dispatch - 168.650 T 110.9, (Pike/San Isabel N.F.) (South)

Ft Collins Ramp Frequency - 163.100

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Pilot's Ready Room is provided for your use and comfort. Please assist in keeping it clean and orderly.

## **HOUSING**

Motels are available in Loveland and Ft Collins.

## **MEALS**

No meals are furnished at the Ft Collins/Loveland Base. Many eating establishments are located in adjacent communities. Pilots are required to have some type of communication established with dispatch when away.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

There are rental cars available on the airport.

## TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

UNIT <b>FNL SEAT BASE (FNL)</b>	FIRE TELEPHONE NUMBERS <b>Mgr. Cell: 970-222-8696 / 8691</b>
ADDRESS <b>4824 Earhart Road Loveland, CO 80538</b>	NIGHT OR 24 HOUR TELEPHONE NUMBERS Commercial: <b>(FTC) 970-498-1348</b>
FACSIMILE NUMBER Type: <b>Automatic</b> Commercial: <b>FNL Jet Center: 970-667-9038</b> <b>FTC Dispatch: 970-498-1364</b>	ELECTRONIC ADDRESSES <b>E-Mail: fjwinkler2@juno.com</b>

-- IF NO ANSWER ON ABOVE FIRE NUMBERS, CALL IN ORDER LISTED BELOW --

LAT: 40 Degrees 26 Minutes 58 Seconds LONG: 105 Degrees 00 Minutes 08 Seconds			ELEVATION 4998'
NAME/TITLE	OFFICE	HOME	PAGER/CELL/MOB/SAT
Fred Winkler SEAT Manager	C 970-222-8696/8691	970-221-1885	P 970-204-3475 C 970-222-8696/8691
T-183 Dutch Snyder	Go thru Seat Mgr	NA	C208-220-2023
Airport Center	970-667-2574		
Mark Nelson Dispatch Center Mgr.	970-498-1040	970-282-4377	P 970-490-5291 C 970-217-6733
Mike Foley ARNF Forest FMO	970-498-1245	970-226-5336	P 970-226-7310 C 970-215-1505
CSFS FDO			970-222-2784

AVIATION\_FNL  
Revised: May7, 2004

**TO ACCESS PAGERS:** On a touchtone phone, dial pager number, enter call-back phone number, hang up.

**Use voice mail for Non-emergency messages only.**