

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Office of Fire and Aviation
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705

December 3, 2002

In Reply Refer To:
FA-500 (9400) P

EMS Transmission 12/04/02
Instruction Memorandum, No. OF&A 2003-006
Expires: 09/30/04

To: State Directors
From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation
Subject: BLM Utilization of Robinson R-44 Helicopters

Program Area: This Instruction Memorandum may potentially affect all non-fire BLM programs that utilize helicopters to accomplish activity goals.

Purpose: Provides precautionary information regarding the performance of this model of helicopter within typical BLM flight environments. Alerts all helicopter users to aviation risk management procedures.

Policy/Action: Any proposed utilization of this model of helicopter must be approved by the BLM State Aviation Manager.

Timeframe: This policy becomes effective upon the issue date of this memorandum.

Budget Impact: Minimal.

Background: The Office of Aircraft Services (OAS) issued Information Bulletin No. 02-02 on April 26, 2002 regarding R-44 helicopters. This bulletin provided characteristics and operating limitations for this aircraft (Attachment 1). Currently several R-44 helicopters are approved within the OAS Aircraft Rental Agreement system. None of these helicopters meet Interagency Fire Helicopter Standards.

Manual Sections: None.

Coordination: Aircraft users must request helicopter services through the local BLM Aviation Manager or Aircraft Dispatcher. As with all requests, an aircraft must be selected that provides appropriate performance and capability to perform the intended mission with employee safety as the priority. In addition, a careful cost analysis must be performed prior to ordering the aircraft. Depending on the mission larger, more expensive aircraft may prove to be more cost-effective when the entire project is considered. Any request to utilize the Robinson R-44 helicopter must be approved by the respective State Aviation Manager.

Contact: Questions regarding this memorandum may be referred to Lynn Findley, 208-387-5448 or Kevin Hamilton, 208-387-5173.

Signed by:
Donald S. Smurthwaite
Acting Director
Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:
Pat Lewis
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.
Office Services

Attachment
OAS Information Bulletin 02-02 (2 pgs.)

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