



# Fire Protection Training

Procedures Handbook 4300

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

**TOPIC:** How To Assume The Safety Position For An Airtanker Retardant Drop

**TIME FRAME:** 30 Minutes

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:**

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:**

*Condition:* An open level area, a wildland safety uniform and a hand tool

*Behavior:* The student will take the safety position for an airtanker retardant drop under simulated fireline conditions

*Standard:* With a minimum of 70% accuracy in 30 seconds

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Full wildland safety uniform
- Hand tool
- Stopwatch
- Performance examinations
- Tally sheets

**REFERENCES:**

- Wildland Firefighting, Clayton, Day and McFadden, Chapter 7

**PREPARATION:**

Airtankers have rolled fire engines, uprooted trees, and injured firefighters while delivering low elevation retardant drops. To minimize the potential for injury, firefighters must assume a safety position lying prone on the ground whenever an airtanker is preparing to drop on their position.

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HOW TO ASSUME THE SAFETY  
POSITION FOR AN AIRTANKER  
RETARDANT DROP

## OPERATIONS

## KEY POINTS

1. Shout "Airdrop"
2. Secure wildland safety uniform
3. Lay on ground
4. Hold helmet on
5. Hold hand tool firmly to one side
6. Feet spread, toes extended outward
7. Remain in safety position

NOTE: Stress fact that this is a "last resort" measure and if at all possible, Firefighter should move out of drop zone prior to a drop.

- 1a. Upon approach of airtanker
- 2a. Full safety uniform
  - b. Chin strap on tight
  - c. Goggles down
  - d. Shroud in place
- 3a. Face down
  - b. Head toward direction of drop.
  - c. Away from hazards
    - (1) Trees
    - (2) Rocks
    - (3) Power lines
- 4a. Tightly
  - b. With one hand
- 5a. Tool blade away from body
  - b. At arms length
- 6a. Better stability
- 7a. Until all retardant has settled on ground

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## ***APPLICATION:***

The airtanker retardant drop safety position is a simple but effective precaution that is to be taken when a firefighter is unable to leave the target area during an airtanker retardant drop.

## ***EVALUATION:***

A performance examination.

## ***ASSIGNMENT:***

To be determined by instructor(s).

# Performance Examination

HOW TO ASSUME THE SAFETY  
POSITION FOR AN AIRTANKER  
RETARDANT DROP

## POINTS

### TIME STARTS

- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | Student will state "I would attempt to leave the target area if possible."                                | <u>20</u> |
| 2. | The student shouts "Airdrop".   | <u>10</u> |
| 3. | Student selects an area free of hazards.  | <u>10</u> |
| 4. | Student checks all wildland safety equipment to assure it is properly worn.                               | <u>10</u> |
| 5. | Student lays flat on the ground, face down with head toward direction of approaching airtanker.           | <u>10</u> |
| 6. | Student holds helmet tightly.   | <u>10</u> |
| 7. | Student holds hand tool firmly to one side with the sharp edge away from the body.                        | <u>10</u> |
| 8. | Student remains in safety position with feet spread and toes extended outward until instructed to get up. | <u>10</u> |

### TIME STOPS

**ENTER TOTAL TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_:

**POINTS POSSIBLE:** 100

**POINTS DEDUCTED:**

**FINAL SCORE:**

**EVALUATOR'S SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**

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**COMMENTS:**

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