



# 2014 Bureau of Land Management Exclusive Use Helicopter Program



BLM Aviation



## Highlights of the 2014 season

- 3,750 flight hours
- 2 million gallons suppressants delivered
- 12,022 passengers transported
- 2.6 million pounds of cargo delivered
- 445 initial attacks
- 15 Medical transports
- 1 accident
- 1 Incident With Potential (IWP)
- 1 Elevated SAFECOM

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## BLM Fire and Aviation Directorate

### BLM Helitack, a challenging but productive season

The BLM exclusive use helicopter program had a challenging season with one accident, one Incident With Potential (IWP) and one elevated safecom. Luckily, these incidents resulted in no serious injuries.

#### Accident

July 3, 2014 Fallon, NV Fire Suppression, Ex-Use Astar 350B3e external load operation slinging crew gear. No fatalities, minor injuries to pilot. Helicopter was destroyed. [NTSB WPR14GA281](#). The accident involved a contracted Exclusive Use helicopter performing a longline mission on a wildland fire. The aircraft was slinging gear when the accident occurred. Immediate emergency response was activated which resulted in the pilot arriving at the hospital in less than 1 hour. The pilot had minor injuries, aircraft was destroyed. A lessons learned document has been produced (IALL 15-01). An Aviation Mis-

hap Review Board (AMRB) was convened. Twelve recommendations were approved by the AMRB, one specific to BLM, and are currently being worked on

#### Incident with Potential

Sept 14, 2014. Burns, OR. Prescribed Fire, On-Call Bell 206 L1-C30P. Second drop on a spot fire utilizing bucket on a 100' longline, pilot experienced sudden updraft immediately after releasing water with a resulting "boom" and tightness in the flight controls. The pilot noticed the attached bucket on a 100' longline had draped over the tail boom. Fortunately the bucket missed the main rotors and only contacted one of the tail rotor blades. Only noticeable damage were the witness marks on the leading edge of the tail rotor blade and half of the steel cable strands being severed. No injuries, minor damage to one of two,

tail rotor blades. Safecom 14-0777. A full IWP report was produced by OAS.

#### Elevated Safecom

June 12, 2014 Tooele, UT. Fire Suppression, during initial attack an Ex-Use Astar 350B3e lost the left sliding door while in flight. Door was in the open and locked positions during flight. No injuries, minimal aircraft damage. Safecom 14-0270. A lessons learned document has been produced for this incident and distributed to the field.

## BLM Helitack Committee

The BLM Helitack Committee, chartered by the Fire Operations Group (FOG), is comprised on one state elected representative from a helitack program in that state. They are chartered to provide national leadership in all areas of BLM Helitack operations to promote and coordinate safe, effective and efficient fire operations in order to accomplish Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire management objectives. This will be done in collaboration with and under the direction of

the BLM Fire Operations Group in coordination with the BLM National Helicopter Program Manager. Current tasking's include Emergency Helicopter Extraction recommendations to the FOG. Members of this committee are also key personnel in creating the Standard Operating Procedures for the sharing of BLM EU helicopter between Alaska Fire Service and the L-48. Scott McConchie is the new committee chair taking over for Justin Jager. Thanks to Justin for the excellent work this past year.



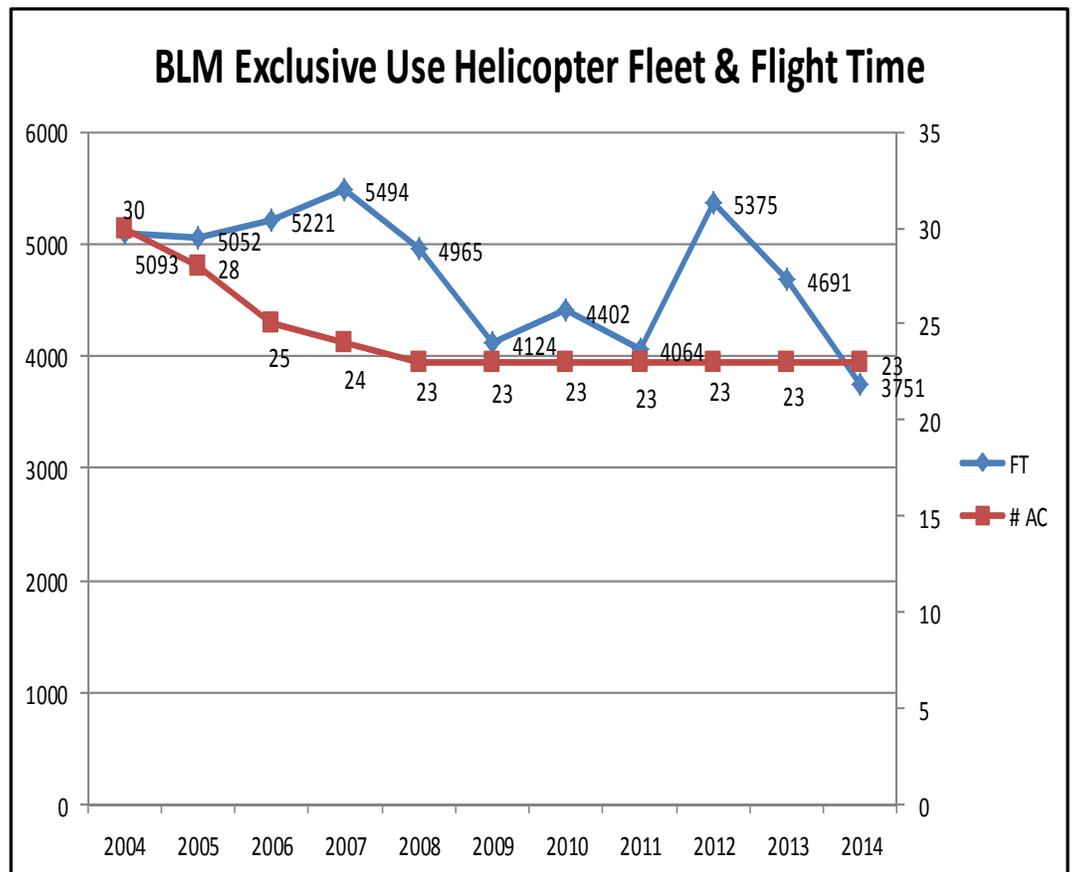
The reign of the Ely Helitack crew winning the last three helitack fitness challenge awards has been broken. The Elko Helitack crew won the 2014 Exclusive Use Helitack Fitness challenge with an average score of 294. Congratulations to Elko. Since the inception of the Helitack Fitness Challenge Nevada has won every year. Can anyone challenge Nevada? Nine crews participated this season.

Exclusive Use Helicopter statistics for the 2014 fire season

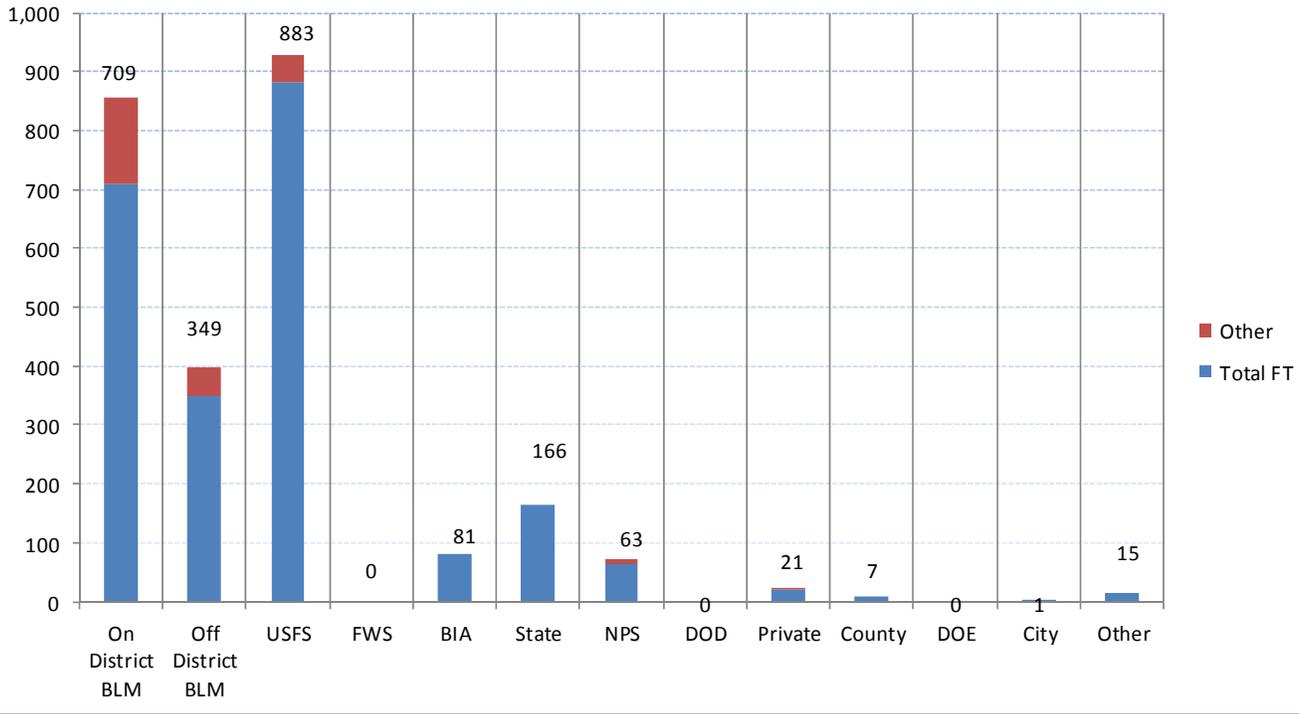


	L-48 Totals	L-48 Average	AFS	Fire Total
Normal Availability Days	1,656	92	540	2,196
Contract Extension Days	124	7	122	246
Daily Availability / per day all AC	\$55,708	\$3,095	\$26,370	\$82,078
Flight Rate / per flight hour all AC	\$21,351	\$1,186	\$6,893	\$28,244
<b>Total Revenue hours Flown</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>3,751</b>
Flight Hours for Fire	2,350	131	1,284	3,634
Flight Hours for Other	195	11	159	354
Flight Hours Flown On Zone	1,224	68	516	1,740
Flight Hours Flown Off Zone	1,321	73	927	2,248
Number of IA	416	23	29	445
% IA Supported with Bucket	66.82%	63.37%	73.28%	68.33%
# Extended Attacks	183	10	65	248
# Days Helo on Extended attack	559	31	380	939
# of PAX	7601	422	4421	12,022
# of Gallons Delivered	1,389,914	77,217	634,376	2,024,290
Pounds Internal Cargo	690,130	38,341	573,095	1,263,225
Pounds External Cargo	929,422	51,635	448,166	1,377,588

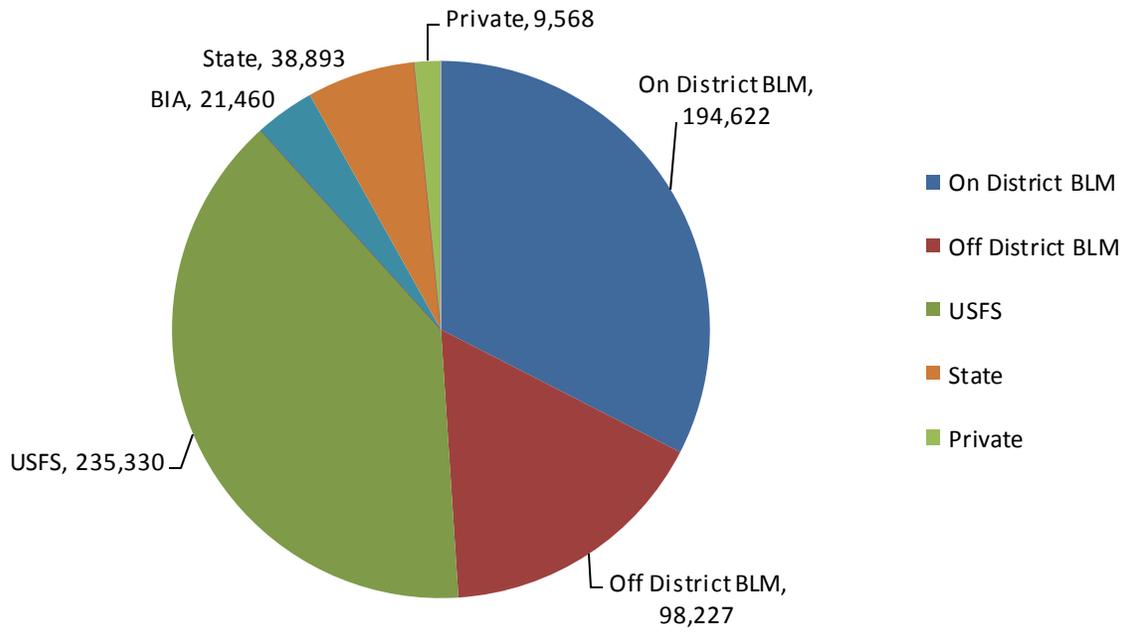
In flying I have learned that carelessness and overconfidence are usually far more dangerous than deliberately accepted risks.  
— Wilbur Wright

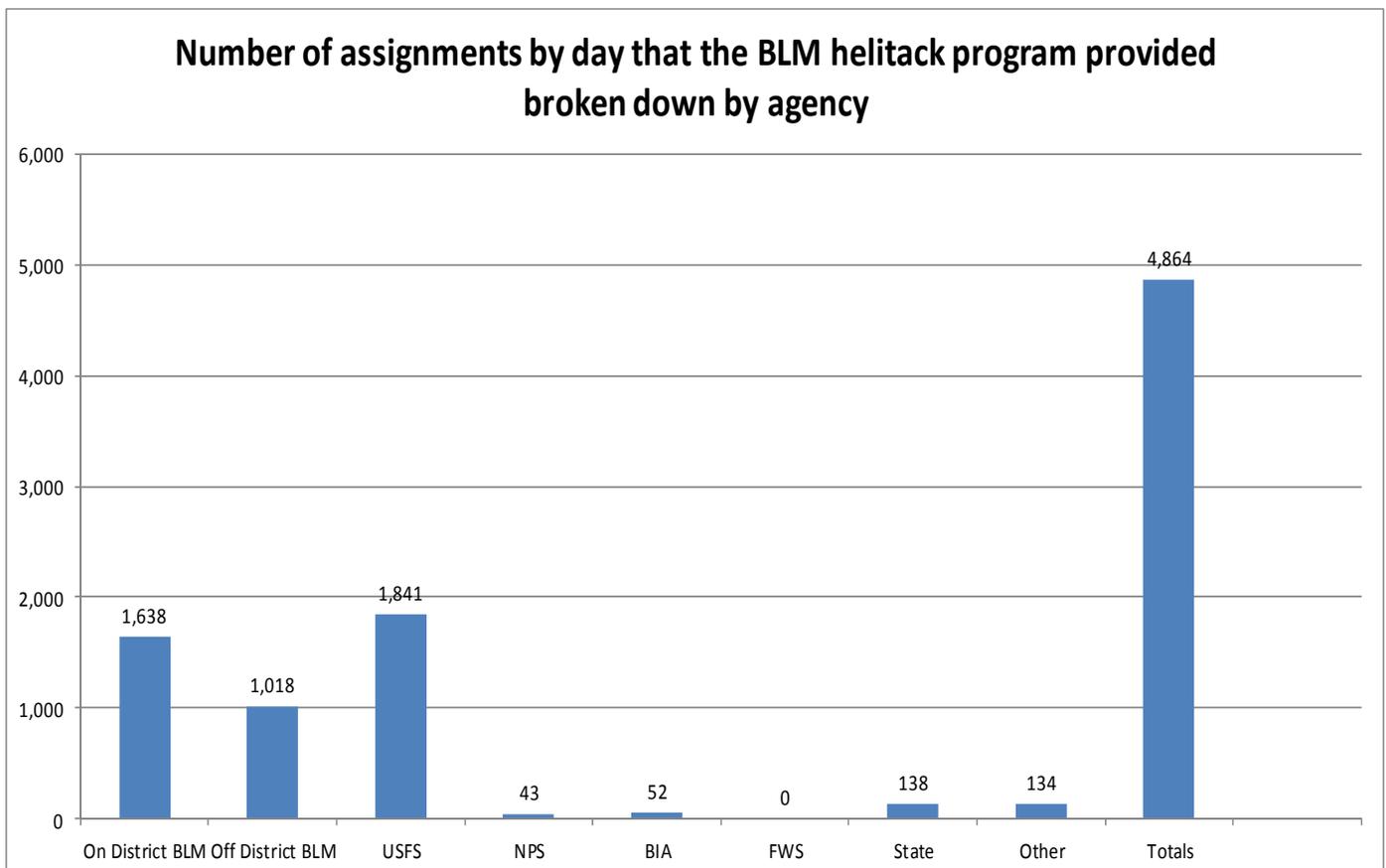
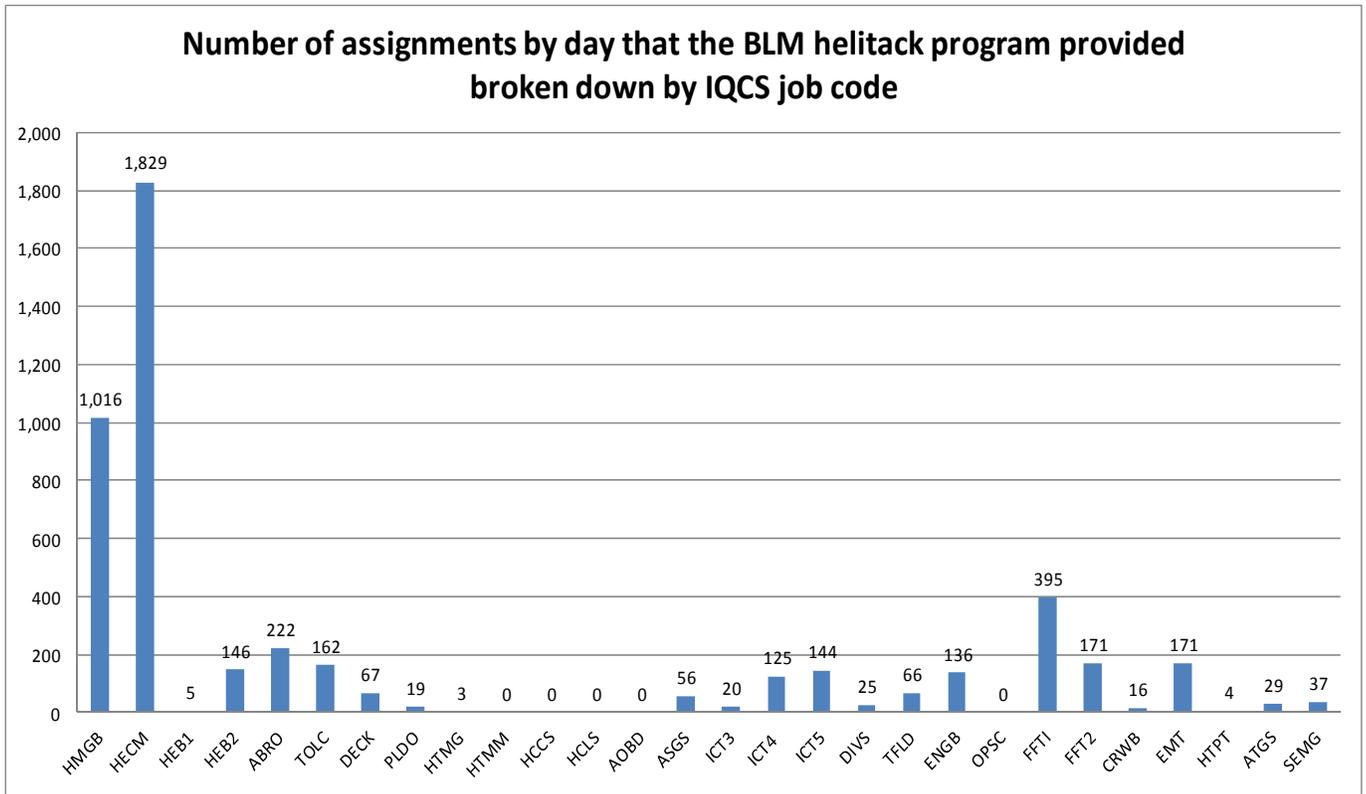


### BLM EU Helicopter Flight Time by Agency 2014

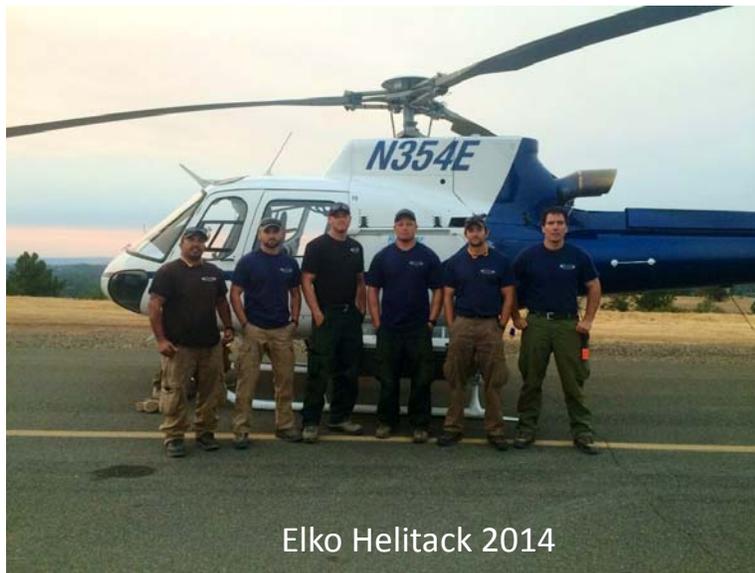


### BLM EU Helicopter Total Gallons Suppressants Delivered by Agency





2014 BLM EU Helitack Crew Fitness Scores						
State	Crew	# Personnel	Avg Score	Best Score	Name	Ranking
AK						
AZ	St. George	11	239	322	Jeremy Chapman	4
	Weaver Mtn	7	168	247	Andrew Marienberg	9
CA	Apple Valley	9	225	329	Javier Ruiz	5
	Ravendale					
CO	Rifle					
ID	Boise	12	214	316	Casey Caughlin	6
	Twin Falls					
MT	Miles City	6	174	254	James	8
	Lewistown					
NV	Elko	7	294	358	Jed Johns	1
	Ely	9	282	352	Dan Braden	2
	Las Vegas	8	253	333	A. Fonseca	3
OR	Burns					
	Lakeview					
	Vale					
UT	Moab					
	Salt Lake					
WY	Rawlins	7	194	382	Tye Taber	7
Average Score			227			



Elko Helitack 2014

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**BLM Aviation**