

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Reference Manual #60: Aviation Management

Chapter 7 – Personal Protective Equipment/Aviation Life Support Equipment

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Reviewed by the Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation Management

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7 Personal Protective Equipment/Aviation Life Support Equipment

7.1 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Parks are responsible for providing personnel with necessary PPE. Flight crewmembers, aircrew members, and passengers are required to wear PPE, that is serviceable and has been inspected, on flights as required per the [ALSE Handbook](#). See Chapter 11.21, *Special Use Activities*.

7.2 Personal Protective Equipment Waiver Authority

Waivers from PPE requirements are delegated from the NPS Director to NPS regional directors.

1. These waivers are limited to instances where protection for the individual is deemed more critical for personal safety than provided by standard PPE.
2. A waiver must have an expiration date and cannot exceed three years.

See Chapter 2.2, *Enhancements, Enhancement Modifications, Waivers, and Exceptions* for more information about waivers.

7.3 First Aid and Survival Kits

All crewed aircraft flying missions other than point-to-point under the operational control of the NPS must carry first aid kits and survival kits meeting specifications found in the [ALSE Handbook](#). Aircraft flying in Alaska or Canada must carry additional survival equipment in accordance with the requirements of the government of the territory being overflown.

7.4 Personal Flotation Device

7.4.1 Single Engine Aircraft

For operations beyond power-off gliding distance to shore, a personal flotation device (PFD) will be worn for all flights. Seat Fare operations authorized under [OPM-15 Acquisition of Seat Fares](#) must follow the certified commercial carrier's requirements.

7.4.2 Multi-engine Aircraft

PFDs must be immediately available to each seated occupant in multiengine-land aircraft that meet the performance capability required for FAA Part 121 Air Carrier and Part 135 Air Taxi and Commercial Operators. When performing takeoffs or landings on water, occupants of all aircraft must wear PFDs.

7.5 Flight Helmets

The [ALSE Handbook](#) identifies approved helmets. The [DOI/USFS Aviation Helmet Standards](#) identifies the inspection process for flight helmets. Flight helmets must be inspected, repaired/refurbished by qualified personnel at the manufacturer's recommended intervals. The inspection process interval shall not be greater than one year. Please see [DOI/USFS Aviation Helmet Standards](#) for the latest information regarding flight helmets.