



STATE AIRCRAFT UNIT
V I C T O R I A

**SAU Operations
Briefing Note**

Number 4. 5 January 2006

**Operation of Media Helicopters at Wildfire Incidents Victoria
Allocated Callsigns**

Background

Airservices Australia introduced specific Air Traffic Control procedures for the management of emergency fire services aircraft prior to the 2002/2003-fire season. These procedures are national and require each state to allocate each aircraft with a discrete alpha and numerical callsign. The establishment of national fire aircraft callsigns enables aircraft to retain their unique fire callsign anywhere in Australia and prevents duplication, which may have occurred in the past.

The type of aircraft determines the alpha callsign allocated. Each state has a numeric identifier based on postcodes i.e. Victoria – 3, NSW – 2 such that a Victorian based Type 3 helicopter callsign will be Firebird 3xx. Contract aircraft carry the identifier of the state with which they have a contract; CWN aircraft carry the identifier of the state they are normally based in.

Consistent with this Airservices has implemented a similar requirement for media helicopters in every State including Victoria.

Comments

Air services Australia has issued the following media operated helicopters in Victoria with the following callsigns.

Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC)	AS 355 F1	VH – HVT	TV 32
General Television Corporation (Channel 9)	AS 355 F1	VH – HWA	TV 39
Channel Seven Melbourne (Channel 7)	AS 350 B2	VH - HSV	TV 37
Ten Network Pty. Ltd. (Channel 10)	Bell 206B	VH – NDV	TV 310

Please note that the call signs are not consistent with the procedures currently implemented and managed by the State Aircraft Unit.

Registered and approved State Aircraft Unit managed fire aircraft are enunciated as:

EG: **FBD 306 = Firebird Three - Zero - Six**

Registered and approved media helicopters are enunciated as:

EG: **VH – HVT = TV Thirty – Two & VH – NDV = TV Three – Ten.**

Recommendations

That you note the above information.

Additional Information

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact Hayden Biggs, State Aircraft Unit, telephone 03 94124888.