



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
**Office of Aircraft Services**

2350 W. Robinson Rd.  
P.O. Box 15428  
Boise, ID 83715-5428

In reply refer to: 113A-4  
July 23, 1997

OAS INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. 97-5

To: All DOI Aviation Operations  
From: Elmer Hurd, Director, Office of Aircraft Services  
Subject: Aircraft Transponder Code (Fire Fighting)

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established a special transponder code of 1255 on a nation-wide basis for aircraft engaged in fire fighting operations.

The code is applicable to aircraft responding to and operating over fire suppression operations. It is not to be used for repositioning or during cross-country flights. Pilots may select 1255 on their transponder prior to contacting an air traffic control facility. However, upon contact, air traffic control retains the discretion to assign a different code.

All aircraft flight crews involved in fire operations must be briefed on the proper use of the 1255 code.

Field personnel are encouraged to forward questions regarding use of 1255 to their nearest FAA air traffic control facility. If you have questions pertaining to this Information Bulletin, please contact Dave Broadnax, OAS Safety Manager, at (208) 387-5800.

---

Director, Office of Aircraft Services