



Wildfire Aerial Response Safety Act One-Pager

Problem:

- The expansion of the consumer drone market is leading to more instances of unauthorized drones entering restricted airspace and disrupting wildfire suppression operations, resulting in critical delays that endanger life and property.
- [The National Interagency Fire Center](#) has reported at least 34 drone incursions this year as of September 15, 2025. Of these incidents, at least 7 led to the suspension of air operations.
- An unauthorized drone flying in restricted airspace during the [Palisades fire](#) in 2025 struck and severely damaged a “super scooper” plane, taking it out of service for several days. Drone incursions have also been reported in multiple other states, including [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Colorado](#), [Idaho](#), [Minnesota](#), [Montana](#), [Nevada](#), [New Mexico](#), [Oregon](#), and [Utah](#).

Solution:

- [The Wildfire Aerial Safety Act](#) is a bipartisan bill that tasks the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) - in consultation with other federal agencies - to study:
 - (1) For each of the last five calendar years—
 - (A) The number of occurrences in which a drone incursion interfered with wildfire suppression; and
 - (B) The estimated effect of each occurrence on –
 - (i) The length of time required to achieve complete suppression;
 - (ii) Any associated delay in the fielding of aerial firefighting response units; and
 - (iii) The amounts expended by the Federal Government
 - (2) Evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of various actions to prevent drone incursions, including—
 - (A) The use of counter-drone radio towers;
 - (B) The use of reasonable force to disable, damage, or destroy a drone;
 - (C) The seizure of a drone, including seizure with a net device; and
 - (D) The dissemination of education materials relating to the effect of drone incursions on wildfire suppression.
- Congress first took up the issue of studying drone incursions with the [Air Safety Act of 2020](#), which passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 382-6, but did not advance in the Senate. The Wildfire Aerial Safety Act builds on this and other previous efforts by expanding the study to include the evaluation of cutting-edge technologies and public information campaigns that can ameliorate the negative impacts of unauthorized drone incursions.