

Aquatic Invasive Species

To minimize potential transmission of aquatic invasive species, it is recommended that you:

- Consult with local resources, biologists, READ/Fs about known aquatic invasive species locations.
- Draft/fill tanks from municipal or treated water sources when possible.
- Avoid transfers of water between drainages/unconnected waters.
- When drafting, avoid sucking organic and bottom material from a water source.
- Use single water source if possible. Allow time for equipment decontamination/drying.
- Remove all organic material/mud from equipment/gear external surfaces when possible.
- Carry spare, clean, dry helicopter buckets, draft hoses, and foot valves to switch out with used ones when moving to a new water source. Decontaminate/dry the wet gear while spares are being used. Adhere to corrosion requirements for aluminum on aircraft fuselages or water delivery components such as helicopter buckets and foot valves when using chemicals.
- If gear contacts untreated water, decontaminate gear before moving to new drainages. Applicable gear includes helicopter buckets, snorkel ends, foot valves, and draft hoses. Water delivery equipment and accessories that do not transfer tank water to waterbodies do not need to be disinfected (e.g., fireline hoses, wye valves, nozzles).

For further direction refer to NWCG Invasive Species Subcommittee *Guide to Preventing Aquatic Invasive Species Transport by Wildland Fire Operations*, PMS 444, or local area or agency direction.