

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Amador-El Dorado Unit

CONTACT: Teri Mizuhara, Fire Prevention Specialist II, 530.708.2724

RELEASE DATE: May 2, 2012

### CAL FIRE Aviation Training

**Camino** – “For the next 10 weeks CAL FIRE’s Aviation Management Unit will be re-qualifying pilots of their fixed wing, firefighting aircraft for the 2013 fire season. Beginning March 11<sup>th</sup> and continuing through May 25<sup>th</sup>, the residents of Amador County may see CAL FIRE aircraft from the Jackson area up to the town of Pioneer along the Highway 88 corridor, in El Dorado County residents may see the aircraft in the Georgetown area, and Sacramento County residents may see CAL FIRE aircraft in the Rancho Murrieta area” says Amador-El Dorado Unit Chief Kelly Keenan. He adds that “during this annual re-certification training, we will be flying our OV-10’s (our Air Tactical Aircraft) and our S2-T’s (our Air Tankers), in the areas of the Amador-El Dorado Unit, Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit and the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit. This pre-season exercise provides valuable refresher training for our firefighting pilots which could be even more critical than ever due to our lack of winter precipitation so far this year.”

#### Interesting facts:

##### CAL FIRE has 14 Air Tactical Aircraft

- Provides Command and Control of all firefighting aircraft for wildland fires.
- Provides tactical coordination with the Incident Commander on the ground.
- Provide information on the movement and spread of the fire.
- They were acquired in 1993 from the Department of Defense.
- Manufactured by North American-Rockwell, Columbus, Ohio.
- Have a maximum cruising speed of 225 knots.

##### CAL FIRE has 23 S2-T Airtankers

- Provides initial attack delivery of fire retardant on wildland fires.
- Carries 1200 gallons of fire retardant.
- Were acquired in 1996 from the Department of Defense. Manufactured by Grumman Aerospace, Bethpage, New York.
- Have a maximum cruising speed of 235 knots.

For more detailed information on CAL FIRE’s Aviation Program you can visit our webpage at [http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_factsheets.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_factsheets.php).