
CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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RELEASE
DATE: April 5, 2004

Airtanker Training Flights in the Area CDF Spring Training for Firefighting Aircraft

Sacramento – For the next few weeks people living near Rancho Murieta and in the Blue Canyon area of the Tahoe National Forest will be seeing frequent water drops by airtankers and helicopters operated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). These flights are part of spring training for CDF pilots as they prepare for the upcoming fire season.

“We try to make the training as realistic as possible,” said CDF Chief of Aviation Mike Padilla. “The difference is that they will not be dropping retardant, only water. Sometimes people are alarmed when they see airtankers flying overhead. We just want to assure people that these are just training runs that are being conducted in specified training areas.”

Last year CDF fire fighting aircraft flew more than 11,000 hours and dropped more than 11.5 million gallons of retardant and water on wildland fires in California.

“These pilots provide critical support to the firefighters on the ground and we are making sure they and their aircraft are at peak performance,” added Chief Padilla.

Airtanker training will continue through mid-May.

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