

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



S-2T AIRTANKER

MANUFACTURER

Grumman Aerospace, Bethpage, New York.

ORIGINAL OWNER

U.S. Navy, 1958-1975; The S-2E/G carrier-based anti-submarine warfare airplane.

ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE

In 1996, CAL FIRE acquired 26 S-2E/G planes from the Department of Defense. CAL FIRE converted the planes to a fire fighting configuration and fitted them with modern, powerful turboprop engines. The completely reconditioned S-2Ts are faster, safer, more maneuverable, and carry a larger retardant payload than the S-2A airtankers CAL FIRE had used since the 1970s. The final three S-2Ts were completed and delivered in 2005.

CAL FIRE has 22 S-2T airtankers in service. One is permanently stationed at the Sacramento Aviation Management Unit facility for maintenance relief.

MISSION

CAL FIRE uses the S-2T airtankers for fast initial attack delivery of fire retardant on wildland fires.

CREW

One pilot

PAYLOAD

1,200 gallons long-term fire retardant

SPECIFICATIONS

Gross Weight: 29,150 pounds
Max. Operating Speed: 270 mph
Range: Loaded: 500 miles/Empty: 800 miles
Wing Span: 73 feet
Endurance: 4.5 hours
Engines: Two (2) Garrett TPE331-14GR turbine engines. (1,650 horsepower each)

