

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



S-2A AIRTANKER

MANUFACTURER

Grumman Aerospace, Bethpage, New York.

ORIGINAL OWNER

U.S. Navy 1952 to 1972. The S-2A was used as a carrier-based anti-submarine warfare airplane.

ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE

In 1972, CAL FIRE acquired 19 S-2As from the Department of Defense. The first S-2As converted for fire fighting were placed in service for the 1973 Fire Season. The S-2A was an efficient and reliable part of CAL FIRE's fire fighting force. The Department completed upgrade of its airtanker fleet with newer, faster and more maneuverable turbine S-2T airtankers in 2005.

MISSION

CAL FIRE used the the S-2A airtankers for fast intial attack delivery of fire retardant on wildland fires.

CREW

One pilot

PAYLOAD

800 gallons long-term fire retardant

SPECIFICATIONS

Gross Weight: 27,000 pounds
Cruise Speed: 195 mph
Range: Loaded: 800 miles/Empty: 1,000 miles
Endurance: 4.5 hours
Wing Span: 70 feet
Engines: Two (2) Wright R-1820-82,
9 cylinder radials (1,500 horsepower each)

