

S-2T AIRTANKER

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

AVIATION
PROGRAM



MANUFACTURER

Grumman Aerospace, Bethpage, New York.

ORIGINAL OWNER

United States 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 Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program. Marsh Aviation converted the planes to a firefighting configuration and were retrofitted with modern, powerful turboprop engines. The completely reconditioned S-2Ts are faster, safer, more maneuverable, and carry a larger retardant payload than the original S-2A airtankers CAL FIRE had used since the 1970s. The final three S-2Ts were completed and delivered in 2005.

MISSION

The S-2T airtankers are used for rapid initial attack delivery of fire retardant on wildland fires. These airtankers are strategically located throughout California responding to the most remote State Responsibility Areas (SRA) within approximately 20 minutes.

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

Endurance: 4.5 hours

Wing Span: 73 feet

Engines: Two (2) Garrett TPE331-14GR turbine engines. (1,650 horsepower each)

