



# Supply Line

## California State Foresters Benefit from Federal Program

**S-2 Airtankers carry  
800 gallons of fire retardant.  
The S-2 travels at 165 knots  
(130 miles per hour) and  
provides fast initial attack on  
wildland fires.**



**F**ederal law allows State Foresters and cooperating organizations to acquire valuable fire protection equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program. Sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) is able to utilize (on loan from the Federal government) aircraft parts and equipment from military sources. There is no cost associated with the acquisition except that of moving and managing it. The USDA Forest Service retains ownership of the property.

This Federal sponsorship allows the CDF access to much higher quality and quantities of property than it would normally have as a state agency. Top of the line aircraft contribute to a program that is a model for national and international firefighting entities. California is privileged to be a state permitted to acquire this property which carries with it the legal responsibility for accountability and management and to ensure that the property is used appropriately for fire protection purposes. The cost benefits of participation in the FEPP program are

significant. *The CDF states "it is certainly a program well worth fostering."* The

FEPP program forms the basis of their integrated logistics support plans for the CDF's firefighting aircraft. It has enabled them to operate the most effective aerial firefighting fleet in the world.



**OV-10 aircraft fly at 200 knots (230 miles per hour) with a crew of two. The air attack ship flies overhead directing airtankers and helicopters to critical areas of the fire for retardant and water drops.**



Transfer of S-2 Airtankers and OV-10 aircraft, and UH-1H helicopters are a great example of what the FEPP program is all about. Through reuse of old military aircraft to fight western wildfires, taxpayers have been saved approximately \$150 million, which is what it would cost to purchase these assets. These aircraft images are evidence of how effectively this property can be reutilized.

Peggy Lowndes  
(415) 522-3029  
(415) 522-3033 Fax  
[peggy.lowndes@gsa.gov](mailto:peggy.lowndes@gsa.gov)