

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



OV-10A AIRTACTICAL AIRCRAFT

MANUFACTURER

North American-Rockwell, Columbus, Ohio.

ORIGINAL OWNER

U.S. Navy/Marines, 1968-1993. The OV-10A was used as a counter-insurgency aircraft and close air-support to military ground forces.

ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE

In 1993, CAL FIRE acquired 15 OV-10As from the Department of Defense. Of those 15, 14 have been converted and are available for use as air attack planes. The OV-10s replaced the original Cessna O-2As that CAL FIRE had been using for air attack. The OV-10s are newer, larger, faster, provide a larger field of vision for the crew and are more maneuverable than the older O-2As.

MISSION

CAL FIRE uses the OV-10As as command and control of aircraft on wildland fires. The crew provides tactical coordination with the incident commander on the ground, providing information on the movement and spread of the fire. The OV-10A crew then directs CAL FIRE's airtanker and helicopter pilots on where to make their retardant and water drops.

CREW

Pilot and observer

SPECIFICATIONS

Gross Weight:	10,500 pounds
Max. Operating Speed:	258 mph
Range:	1,000 miles
Endurance:	5.5 hours (maximum)
Wing Span:	40 feet
Engines:	Two (2) Garrett T-76 turbines (715 horsepower each)

