

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



O-2A AIR ATTACK

MANUFACTURER

Cessna Aircraft, Wichita, Kansas

ORIGINAL OWNER

U.S. Air Force. The O-2A was used as a forward air controller (FAC) extensively during the Vietnam War.

ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE

CAL FIRE acquired 20 O-2As in 1974-1975 from the Department of Defense. They were converted for use as air attack planes, and 13 O-2s went into service during the 1976 Fire Season. The O-2 served the Department for more than 20 years before being replaced with the larger and faster OV-10A.

MISSION

CAL FIRE used the O-2s as command and control aircraft on wildland fires. The crew provided tactical coordination with the incident commander on the ground, providing information on the movement and spread of the fire. The crew then directed CAL FIRE airtankers and helicopter pilots on where to make their retardant and water drops. This mission is now filled by the OV-10A.

CREW

Pilot and observer

SPECIFICATIONS

Gross Weight: 4,300 pounds
Cruise Speed: 160 mph
Range: 1,000 miles
Endurance: 7 hours
Wing Span: 38 feet
Engines: Two (2) continental IO-360, six cylinder opposed piston, (210 horsepower each)

