

Principles for Airtanker and Water Scooper Use

- Determine tactics, direct or indirect, based on fire sizeup and resources available.
- Discuss strategy, tactics, wind conditions, and hazards with ATGS, ASM/LP, or pilot.
 - Establish a clear, obtainable objective for retardant use with aerial supervision.
- Maintain effective communication with ATGS, ASM/LP, or pilot.
- Establish an anchor point and work from it.
- Order appropriate aircraft for mission based on objectives, terrain, and supporting ground resource tactics.
- Use the appropriate coverage levels for the fuel type. See chart on page 77.
- Drop downhill, into the wind, and away from the sun if possible.
- Order airtankers early; aircraft are most effective during initial attack and early and late in the day.
- Let ground resources know when there is an airtanker inbound.
- Ensure approach, departure, and line are clear of personnel and equipment.
- Inform ATGS, ASM/LP, or pilot when the drop area is clear.
- Let ground resources know when drops are completed.
- Get feedback from on-scene ground resources regarding drop effectiveness.
- Relay feedback to aerial resource(s).