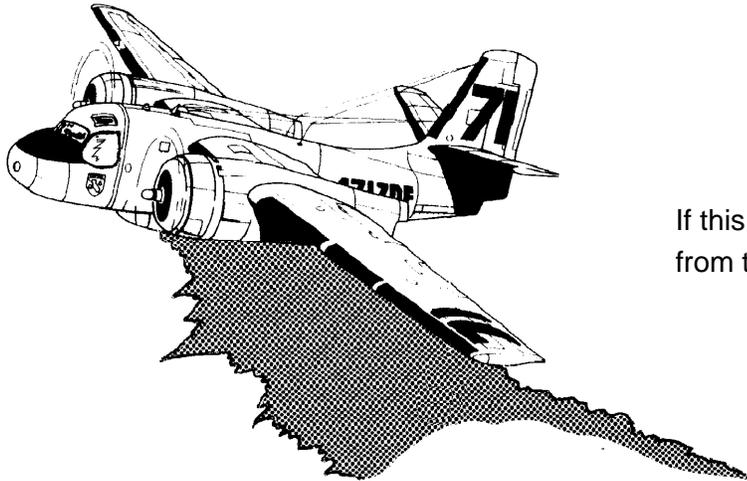




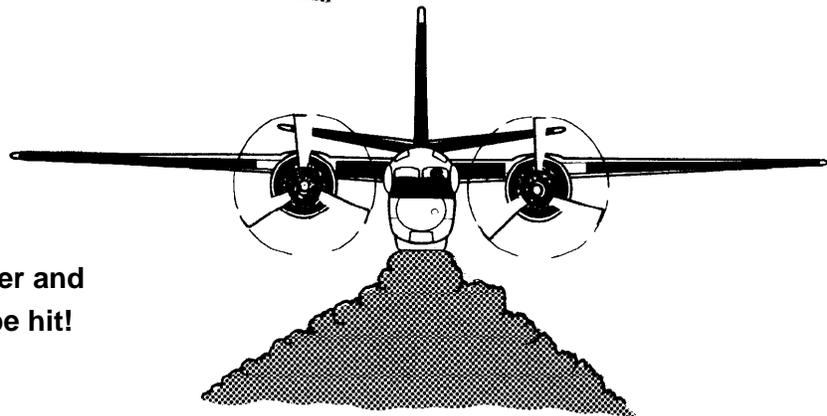
INFORMATION SHEET #1

Procedures Handbook 4300

AIRTANKER RETARDANT DROP SAFETY
PRECAUTIONS



If this is what you see, you are safe
from the main part of the drop.



If this is what you see – **take cover and
precautions – you’re going to be hit!**

General Information

1. Retardant drops from airtankers can be dangerous. A low drop has sufficient velocity and mass to not only knock you off your feet but can also throw you considerable distance.
2. While being hit directly by a load of retardant is at best a sloppy sticky mess, generally no serious bodily injuries will be caused by the retardant, if you take the proper precautions. The major cause of bodily injury resulting from a low drop is being thrown against rocks, trees, etc., or being struck by flying debris picked up by the retardant.
3. Air tanker pilots are constantly cautioned about the dangers to ground personnel resulting from low drops. CAL FIRE policy states air tanker drops are not to go below 150' above ground level. But low drops can happen. Immediately report any injuries caused by a low drop. Obtain information on aircraft type and assigned tanker number.
4. If you are standing or running and are hit by main force of the load from a low drop, you can expect to be thrown and bounced around rather violently.
5. If you are prone and are hit by a low drop the risk of injury is reduced considerably over the injuries you might receive were you standing or running.
6. If you are hit by a low drop don't add to the flying debris – hold onto the tools or other equipment you might be carrying. Those flying tools or equipment could cause injury to you or someone on your crew.

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INFORMATION SHEET #2

Procedures Handbook 4300

AIRTANKER RETARDANT DROP SAFETY
PRECAUTIONS



If caught in the open, lie down facing incoming airtanker. Hold tools firmly and to one side. Hold helmet on; spread your feet for better stability, goggles in place to protect eyes.

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