

## **FIRE SUPPRESSANT WATER ADDITIVES ("SHORT-TERM FIRE RETARDANTS")**

**8430**

(September 2003)

Fire suppressant water additives, formerly known as "short-term fire retardants", do not contain retardant salt, and as a result they cost significantly less than gum-thickened long-term retardants. CDF first investigated the use of short-term retardants in the air attack program in 1975. In 1983 and 1984, the evaluation continued as a joint effort of the USFS and CDF, in accordance with the formal interagency test plan, "Field Operational Evaluation - Short Term Retardants" (April 1983). The evaluation revealed that the effectiveness of short-term retardant is approximately equal to long-term in light to medium fuels, such as grass and light brush, under normal burning conditions. The evaluators concluded that CDF should continue and expand its use of short-term retardants in accordance with application guidelines.

As of September 2003 no fire suppressant water additives are approved for use in airtankers or helicopters with fixed tanks. Two water enhancers are approved for aerial application from helicopter buckets. Consult the current WFCS QPL for a list of products approved for each type of helicopter delivery system.

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