

Firefighting Planes Diverted to Yellowstone Airport

On the afternoon of July 20, the Yellowstone Airport had the pleasure of receiving two Canadair CL-415s. These aircraft are owned and operated by Aeroflite out of Spokane, Washington for the U.S. Forest Service. The two aircraft were on their way to Cody, WY to provide backup support for the fires in that region.

However, thunderstorms over the mountains required them to deviate to West Yellowstone for a few hours. The Canadian-made CL-415's, also known as Bombardier 415's, carry 1600 gallons of water in two tanks located inside and below the fuselage. According to the pilots, these amphibious aircraft are the only planes currently built and designed specifically for aerial firefighting in North America.



This CL-415 on the ramp at Yellowstone Airport can carry 1,600 gallons of water. See view of the water tanks from the interior of the plane in picture below.

