

Modified 747 could soon fight Calif. wildfires



The modified 747 would be limited where it could fight fires. Photo/Global Supertanker Services

By Michael McGough, Sacramento Bee

Some of the summer's worst wildfires have spanned tens of thousands of acres in California.

As heat waves continue in the dry season, a new weapon may soon be at firefighters' disposal to help combat wildfires across the state.

The Global SuperTanker – a converted Boeing 747-400 jet capable of dropping 19,000 gallons of water or fire retardant – last week received interim approval from the Interagency Airtanker Board, Fireaviation.com reported, clearing it for use over the next 17 months.

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