

FAQS –Single Engine Airtankers (SEAT)

How much water or fire retardant does a SEAT carry?

A SEAT generally carries 600-800 gallons.

What kind of personnel are needed to staff a SEAT Base?

A Single Engine Airtanker Manger (SEMG) is required for a base to operate along with the loader from the SEAT contractor. SEMGs are government employees who have undergone nationally recognized training along with completing required proficiently tasks. Texas A&M Forest Service has several employees across the state that fully qualified to perform SEMG duties.

How long does it take to set up a SEAT base?

Generally, a SEAT Base in Texas can be set up and ready for aircraft within 24-hours. The intent of Texas A&M Forest Service is to activate the bases at the beginning of a fire season in Texas, ahead of any significant wildfire activity.

Who owns the aircraft?

The SEATs are owned by private companies who are on contracts with the U.S. Forest Service or the Department of Interior. Texas A&M Forest Service orders the aircraft through the appropriate ordering system under these contracts.

Where are SEAT bases located in Texas?

Texas A&M Forest Service has several locations in the state with agreements and equipment staged for SEAT Bases. These include airports in Abilene, Amarillo, Fort Stockton, Fredericksburg and Giddings. SEAT bases can be set up at other airports if needed.

What do SEATS cost?

Price of the aircraft will vary by the contract. Generally, SEATS cost daily standby rate of \$3,000 to \$4,000 dollars with flight hours an additional cost.