



Asa Hutchinson
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
agriculture.arkansas.gov
(501) 225-1598



Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

[Arkansas Department of Agriculture](#)

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CONTACT: Anna Thrash, (501) 529-2689, anna.thrash@agriculture.arkansas.gov

Arkansas Forestry Division hosts Tanker Refill Training for Fire Departments

CAMDEN, AR – Forty Arkansas firefighters from three fire departments participated in Tanker Refill Training hosted by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division at the Camden airport September 30. Fire departments represented were Camden Fire Department, East Camden Fire Department, and Ouachita County Fire District 1.

The Tanker Refill Training is a part of the SEATs (Single Engine Air Tankers) program which trains firefighters on how to utilize airplanes to drop water on wildfires. Forestry Division personnel teach trainees how to safely and efficiently fill the water tanks on Air Tractor 802 airplanes which can drop up to 800 gallons of water and/or fire retardant foam on a fire line.

“We consider every fire department in the state as a partner with us,” said Kevin Kilcrease, Staff Training Supervisor with the Arkansas Forestry Division. “When fire departments have the right training, we can cut down tanker refill time to 15 minutes which lets firefighters get water to a wildfire faster and more drops on the fire.”

The Forestry Division provides the training annually at various locations across the state so every area is ready to respond to a wildfire in the most efficient way. Fire departments interested in participating in training events should contact the Forestry Division County Ranger in their County. Contact information for District and County offices can be found [here](#).

The Forestry Division maintains a contract for up to four SEATs during the high fire danger periods each year. Four SEATS are on call from February through April and two SEATS are on call in August and September.

Photos from the training can be found [here](#).

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov.