



BETTER OUTCOMES AND COST SAVINGS REALIZED IN MINNESOTA

How a Fire Boss fleet improved responsiveness to fire situations and saved \$1 million in its first year.



In 2015, the state of Minnesota made a key change to its firefighting approach. Its two 1980s-vintage CL-215 water bombers were aging and had become too difficult to maintain. The state considered replacing the aircraft with the next-gen CL-415 model, but at \$35 million per aircraft, the option was prohibitively expensive.

As a result, Minnesota changed its strategy. The state sold its aging CL-215s and replaced them with smaller, more nimble contract aircraft – 4 Fire Bosses and 2 wheeled AT-802s. Some speculation arose over the decision: Could a fleet of 800-gallon aircraft be as effective as two 1600-gallon air tankers? Not only did the change in strategy prove more cost effective, it brought a whole host of benefits to the state, including enhanced ground-firefighter productivity, more quickly controlled fires, a reduction in required duration of aerial fire suppression activities and an expanded footprint of operations.



Within a year of replacing its CL-215s with a fleet of AT-802s, the state:

- Saved over \$1.0 million in fixed wing aircraft costs
- Increased the number of fires actioned
- Enhanced ground firefighter productivity
- Developed an improved basing strategy and expanded its fire aviation footprint across the state
- Maintained excellent safety standards despite an increased number of aircraft

Dauntless Air is proud to assist Minnesota in protecting people, land and property from the devastation of wildfires. By switching to a technologically-advanced fleet of Fire Boss aircraft, Minnesota has a more effective early strike tool that's been winning the war on wildfires since 2015.



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