



William Payne
Senior Aviation Officer
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

William (Bill) Payne is currently the Senior Aviation Officer for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). This agency operates a fleet of fifty four aircraft that include: twelve Super Huey Helicopters, twenty two Grumman S2T air tankers, sixteen Rockwell OV-10s, two King Airls, one Baron and one Cessna Sky Master. All of these aircraft except the King Airls, the Baron and the Sky Master are un-certificated public use only aircraft.

William has been with the department for eleven years, prior to this assignment, he was involved in many different aspects of the helicopter industry. His aviation career began in 1969 as an Army helicopter pilot with service in Viet Nam. After the military, he went back to College and earned a BA in Industrial Arts Education. He taught Drafting and photography plus coached football and track at a high school in San Jose California. He then worked as a chief pilot, director of operations, FAR part 135 company check pilot, for various utility, air tour and emergency medical transportation companies. He has amassed over 11,000 hours of pilot in command time. He holds an ATP and flight instructor certificates. William was also a Rotary Wing Designated Pilot Examiner for the Honolulu and Sacramento FSDOs of the Federal Aviation Administration. William was the General Manager of Papillion Hawaiian Helicopters in Hawaii. William also has an independent Aviation Consulting business and is an auditor for the International Business Aviation Council (IBAC) in addition to PSAAC. This experience has given him an intimate understanding of the Public Use Aircraft issues and challenges.