

Neptune Aviation Services

Missoula, Montana

TPM Member Since January 2013



Northstar Jet and Neptune Aviation have been members of the Timber Products Manufacturers Association since January 2013. In December 2013, the two companies were combined into Neptune Aviation Services. You might wonder what an aviation company has in common with the wood products industry.

Northstar Jet is home base for some of the country's nicest aircraft, providing the feel and comforts of a home airfield while traveling through the Montana area. Northstar Jet has a NATA Safety 1st certified line department, as well as an FAA Certified Repair Station for aircraft. It is a fueling station for Phillips 66 petroleum products and provides all facets of aircraft maintenance.



Northstar Jet operates a flight school and has the capability of being a home base 24 hours a day. Northstar Jet is committed to providing consistent, exceptional service in a relaxed aviation atmosphere. From a scenic touchdown in the mountains of Western Montana to the roll of the red carpet, the Northstar team of professionals is able to meet the pilot and traveler's needs.

The sister company, Neptune Aviation Service is the

membership connection to the wood products industry. Neptune Aviation is the most reliable and innovative aerial firefighting company in the nation. As the primary provider of large airtanker services in the United States Forest Service (USFS) for more than 23 years, Neptune has proven to be an invaluable partner.



Neptune Aviation employs a proficient cadre of A&P mechanics, FAA certificated repairmen and pilots who meticulously maintain and operate a diverse fleet of firefighting aircraft including five BAe 146 and P2V Neptune airtankers. Neptune is unwavering in its commitment to recurrent training and quality assurance and adhering to the most stringent safety standards in the industry. Neptune Aviation is proud to serve our nation's ground wildfire crews as the undisputed leader in the aerial firefighting industry.

Neptune Aviation was founded in 1993 as the result of the purchase of Black Hills Aviation in Almagordo, New Mexico. Shortly thereafter, operations were moved to Missoula, Montana. At that time, 14 vendors and a nationwide fleet of 44 aircraft provided aerial firefighting services under three-year exclusive use contracts

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with the USFS. Of the 44, Neptune operated six aircraft, all P2V Neptune airtankers.

Since its inception, Neptune has been successful in acquiring airtanker contracts with the USFS. Neptune has not only provided the majority of firefighting aircraft over the past 23 years, but has fearlessly pursued the research and development of a Next Generation aircraft. In fact, Neptune was the first U.S. operator to contract with the USFS in 2011 for a Next Gen aircraft in the form of Tanker 40, a converted British Aerospace BAe 146.

The Neptune Aviation fleet has flown thousands of missions with a meticulously maintained fleet of firefighting workhorses, including



BAe 146 and P2V aircraft. No other firefighting company in the country comes close to matching the experience and expertise amassed by the dedicated team of world-class pilots, mechanics and engineers at Neptune Aviation. Neptune currently has contracts with the USFS for seven aircraft, including one BAe and six P2V airtankers. Neptune hopes to obtain additional contracts for their BAe 146 airtankers in the next several months.

As a steadfast and reliable partner with the USFS for over 23 years, Neptune Aviation sets the bar for the aerial firefighting industry in the pursuit and perfection of Next Gen aircraft. Neptune leads the way in innovation, research, maintenance, training and safety in the large airtanker industry.

As the P2V aircraft are phased out over the next few years, Neptune will add to its fleet of modern BAe airtankers. Neptune's team of engineers will continue to refine and improve the revolutionary REV 3 tank—a technological innovation with capabilities never before seen in the industry and the first ever IAB approved Next Gen tank. The REV 3 tank was flown on the USFS grid in the fall of 2013 and received glowing reports and immediate approval from the Interagency Airtanker Board.

Neptune operates a fleet of 12 firefighting airtankers. The fleet includes five modern BAe 146 aircraft equipped with the innovative REV 3 tank capable of delivering a payload of 3,000 gallons of fire retardant as well as seven Lockheed P2V aircraft capable of delivering 2,082 gallons of fire retardant.



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