Discussion:
The La Grande Airtanker Base (LGATB) will once again be officially closed to all airtanker operations at the “end of shift” on September 23rd. Permanent repairs will begin on September 24th to the apron leading to the concrete retardant loading pads. It was determined in April 2011 that the asphalt apron had deteriorated to the point that it was no longer serviceable or safe to operate aircraft. Temporary repairs to the apron extended the ability to operate the airtanker base during the 2011 fire season, but permanent repairs require its closure. The Regional Forster has issued a letter closing the LGATB on September 24, 2011 to all airtanker operations until rehabilitation work is completed on June 1, 2012.

The La Grande Airtanker Base is closed to all airtanker operations from September 24, until repairs are complete!

/s/ Keith C. Raley
Keith C. Raley
Chief, Aviation Safety and Program Evaluation

/s/ Ron Hanks
Ron Hanks
Chief, Aviation Safety Management Systems