



NSW Rural Fire Service

Skycrane

2005 FACT SHEET

1. Registrations and Call signs.

Type	Registration	Callsign	Notes
Skycrane CH 54 B	N 722 HT	Helitak 722	Based at Sydney Helicopter's Granville Helipad

2. Quick Facts

	CH 54 B
Max speed (knots)	100
Water tank Capacity (litres)	9,000
Foam concentrate (litres)	350
Hover Fill (seconds)	50
Sea snorkel fill (seconds)	40
Fuel burn (litres/hr)	1893
Fuel capacity (litres)	5114
Length (metres)	27.23
Main Rotor (metres)	22.0
Height (metres)	7.82

The Skycrane is one of a number of aircraft contracted to NSW through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre for 2005/06 fire season.

The Australian Government and NSW Government cover 50 percent each of the Skycrane's standing charges. The NSW Government also covers the operational costs.

3. Questions and Answers

- **Where did the Skycrane come from?**
It is based in Oregon, USA. Most recently it has been fighting fires in Oregon and Nevada. The Skycrane flew from Oregon to Los Angeles and was transported by boat to Port Botany, arriving on 16 November. Sydney Helicopters assembled the Skycrane the next day and have been conducting machine and crew tests to ensure it is operationally prepared to begin work for the RFS on 23 November.
- **Crew details**
There are three flight crew (pilots). The Lead Captain is an Australian who has been training in Oregon. The two other flight crew are American and Canadian. There are also two American engineers and a stand by crew.
- **What is the difference between a Skycrane and an Aircrane?**
They are essentially the same aircraft – a type 1 large capacity helicopter. Each have the same tank capacity – 9000 litres. The Skycrane is operated by Helicopter Transport Services and is contracted through Sydney Helicopters at Granville. The Skycrane is burgundy while the Aircrane is orange.
- **Where did the Skycrane get the name Rocky?**
The crew chief likes the cartoon Rocky and Bullwinkle.
- **Can the Skycrane be used with salt water?**
Yes. The sea snorkel allows salt water to be “scooped” into the tanks in forward flight.
- **What sort of water source is necessary if hover filling from fresh water?**
At least 1 meter deep and 70 metres clear of obstacles around.
- **Can the Skycrane make multiple drops from one pickup and vary the concentration of drops on the ground?**
Yes.
- **Will the Skycrane integrate with other air operations?**
Yes. The Skycrane is a fire bombing aircraft and will operate with other fire bombing aircraft.