

C-130H AIRTANKER

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

AVIATION
PROGRAM



AIR
OPERATIONS



MANUFACTURER

Lockheed Martin, Marietta Georgia.

ORIGINAL OWNER

United States Coast Guard, 1985-present (USCG HC-130H).

ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE

On July 24, 2018, California secured approval for the future acquisition of seven C-130H's aircraft to CAL FIRE. A provision included in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) allowed the transfer from the United States Coast Guard, to California, upon the completion of modifications by the United States Air Force.

This modification process includes replacement of center wing boxes and outer wings, general programmed depot level maintenance, (PDM), painting, and Retardant Dispersal System (RDS) installation. Once complete, the United States Coast Guard can transfer ownership to CAL FIRE. Based on the extensive wing-box modifications, RDS contracting/installation by the United States Air Force, and need for pilot training and certification, the first transferred C-130Hs will be response ready in the near future.

MISSION

The C-130H's will be used for rapid initial attack delivery of fire retardant on wildland fires. These 7 new airtankers will support CAL FIRE's existing fleet of aircraft from air attack bases strategically located throughout California.

CREW

Three-person crew; pilot, co-pilot, and flight engineer.

PAYLOAD

4,000 gallons long-term fire retardant.

SPECIFICATIONS

Gross Weight: 155,000 pounds

Max. Operating Speed: 368 mph

Range: Loaded: 800 miles/

Empty: 3,000 miles

Endurance: 8 hours

Wing Span: 133 feet

Engines: Four Allison T56-A-15 turboprops; producing 4,300 horsepower each

