

# 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

In July 2018, California secured approval to acquire seven C-130H aircraft for CAL FIRE. This addition to the firefighting fleet was solidified in December 2023 with the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by Congress. Signed into law by President Biden later that month, the NDAA authorized the transfer of these C-130Hs from the United States Coast Guard to California.

Since 2018 the United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard played a pivotal role in maintaining the aircraft including the replacement of the inner and outer wing boxes, paint, and providing spare provisions to ensure the aircraft will remain in service.

## MISSION

The C-130Hs 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. The first aircraft is scheduled to be completed in late 2024.

## 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

