

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 aircraft for CAL FIRE. Subsequently, on December 14, 2023, Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), facilitating the transfer of aircraft from the United States Coast Guard to California. President Joe Biden signed this legislation into law on December 22, 2023, formally transferring ownership of the seven C-130H aircraft to California and initiating the installation of the 4,000-gallon internal tanks.

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-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. 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

