

# SIKORSKY S70i CAL FIRE HAWK



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

AVIATION  
PROGRAM

AIR



OPERATIONS

## MANUFACTURER

Sikorsky Aircraft, Stratford, Connecticut (Built in Mielec, Poland).

## AIRCRAFT FIRE BUILD-UP

United Rotorcraft, Englewood, Colorado.

## ORIGINAL OWNER

CAL FIRE, 2019

## ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE

In 2018 CAL FIRE received approval from the Governor's Office to purchase up to 12 new Sikorsky S70i firefighting helicopters from United Rotorcraft. These new generation helicopters will replace CAL FIRE's aging fleet of 12 Super Huey Helicopters. In Fiscal Year 2022-2023 additional funding was approved to purchase four additional S70i Fire Hawk Helicopters to increase surge capacity and to maintain operational capabilities during mandatory maintenance cycles.

## MISSION

The CAL FIRE HAWK's primary mission is responding to initial attack wildfires and rescue missions. When responding to wildfires, the helicopter can quickly deliver up to a 9-person Helitack Crew for ground firefighting operations and quickly transition into water/foam dropping missions.

The helicopters are also used for firing operations using either a Helitorch or a Chemical Ignition Device System (CIDS) on wildland fires or prescribed burns, transporting internal cargo loads, mapping, medical evacuations and numerous non-fire emergency missions.

The CAL FIRE HAWK is also equipped with an external hoist for rescue missions. This specialized rescue technique involves highly trained firefighters being lowered from a hovering helicopter to an injured or trapped person below. Once secured to a harness or stokes basket, both the victim and rescuer are then hoisted into the helicopter and flown to a landing zone.

## CREW

One pilot, two Helitack Captains, an operations supervisor, and up to nine personnel.

## PAYLOAD

Fixed tank - 1000 gallons of water/foam with pilot controlled drop volumes.

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Gross Weight:** Internal 22,000 lbs./

External 23,500 lbs.

**Cruise Speed:** 160 mph

**Night Vision Capable**

**Range:** 250 miles

**Endurance:** 2.5 hours

**Rotor Diameter:** 53 feet and 8 inches

**Engines:** Twin turbine engine,  
T700-GE701D

