

# UH-1H SUPER HUEY HELICOPTER



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

AVIATION  
PROGRAM



## MANUFACTURER

Bell Helicopters, Fort Worth, Texas.

## ORIGINAL OWNER

United States Army, 1963 to 1975. The UH-1H was used as a troop/cargo transport and for specialized operations.

## ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE

In 1981, CAL FIRE acquired 12 UH-1F helicopters through the the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program. In 1990 they were replaced by newer, highly modified, Vietnam-era UH-1H helicopters referred to as the "Super Huey."

## MISSION

The CAL FIRE Super Huey'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.

In 1997, CAL FIRE personnel were trained to do "short haul" rescues. Since 2011 CAL FIRE has moved away from the Short Haul program and started utilizing the Hoist program. 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.

CAL FIRE continues to place our Super Huey helicopters in reserve status as CAL FIRE HAWKS are placed in service.

## CREW

One pilot, two Helitack Captains, and eight personnel.

## PAYLOAD

Bucket operations: 324 gallons of water/foam.  
Fixed tank: 360 gallons of water/foam with pilot controlled drop volumes.

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Gross Weight:** 10,500 pounds  
**Cruise Speed:** 126 mph  
**Range:** 250 miles  
**Endurance:** 2 hours  
**Rotor Diameter:** 48 feet  
**Engines:** Turbine Lycoming T-53-703 derated from 1800 HP

