

# ALMA HELITACK BASE

The Alma Helitack Base was established in 1970 and is located in the CDF Santa Clara Unit above the Santa Clara Valley in Los Gatos.

Alma responds to an average of 250 calls per year ranging from fires to rescues. Staffing at Alma consists of one pilot, two fire captains, and six seasonal firefighters. In addition to the \*helitack crew there is one fire engine staffed at Alma Station. Alma operates a UH-1H helicopter. Also operated out of Alma Helitack Base is the Helitender, which serves as a support vehicle for the copter. The helitender contains 1,000 gallons of fuel, along with foam, backup tools, out-of-county bags, an extra bucket, paperwork, Meals Ready to Eat (MRE's) and many other items that are necessary to support the crew.



Alma Helitack has an initial attack response area of over three million acres of state lands and more than 200,000 acres of federal lands within its direct protection area. This area encompasses timber, brush, and grass fuel types and ranges geographically from San Francisco in the north, to the Monterey Bay in the south, and east to the Central Valley.

\*CDF helitack crews consist of highly trained and experienced firefighters who are assigned to and respond to wildland fires aboard CDF helicopters. Once arriving on an incident the crew, typically 5 to 6 firefighters along with a fire captain, are let off with fire fighting hand tools and initiate fire suppression actions. Helitack crews also perform other helicopter support operations when not assigned to direct fire line operations such as helibase operations and support.

*For information about other helitack bases,  
visit the **Air Program** page of the  
CDF website:  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)*



January 2005