

HEMET-RYAN HELITACK BASE

The Hemet-Ryan Helitack Base was established in 1959 and is located with Hemet Air Attack Base in the CDF Riverside Unit in the town of Hemet.

Hemet-Ryan responds to an average of 100+ calls per year ranging from fires to rescues. On a daily basis, the crew of Hemet-Ryan consists of two pilots, four fire captains, two fire apparatus engineers, and 15 firefighters that are shared between the Helitack and Air Attack Base. Hemet-Ryan Helitack operates a UH-1H helicopter. It is one of two ships that have a belly tank rather than a bucket. The belly tank can hold 325 gallons of water.

Also operated out of Hemet-Ryan 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 *helitack crew.

Hemet-Ryan provides coverage and protection north to Redlands, south to Fallbrook, west to Orange County and east to Palm Springs.

*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*



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