

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS)

MAFFS are military C-130 transport planes that can be converted to serve as fire fighting airtankers. The C-130 can carry 3,000 gallons of fire retardant compared to the CAL FIRE S-2T airtankers which carry 1,200 gallons.

MAFFS are requested only when all other fire service aircraft are committed to major, extended incidents. They are considered a 24-hour resource, meaning that when ordered, it will be at least 24 hours before they can be expected on duty. When ordered, MAFFS must be taken from their regular military duties and then fitted with fire fighting airtanker equipment.

There are eight MAFFS in the United States. Two are stationed in California, the rest around the nation. All eight have been committed to California fires in the past.

The military is reimbursed for the use of these planes by the agency having jurisdiction over the fire.

