C-130H AIRTANKER

MANUFACTURER
Lockheed Martin, Marietta Georgia

ORIGINAL OWNER
United States Coast Guard, 1985-present (USCG HC-130H)

ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE
On July 24, 2018, California secured approval for the future acquisition of seven C-130H aircraft to CAL FIRE. A provision included in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) allowed the transfer from the United States Coast Guard, to California, upon the completion of modifications by the United States Air Force.

This modification process includes replacement of center wing boxes and outer wings, general programmed depot level maintenance, (PDM), painting, and Retardant Dispersal System (RDS) installation. Once complete, the United States Coast Guard can transfer ownership to CAL FIRE. Based on the extensive wing-box modifications, RDS contracting/installation by the United States Air Force, and need for pilot training and certification, the first transferred C-130H’s will be response ready in 2022.

MISSION
The C-130H will be used for rapid initial attack delivery of fire retardant on wildand fires. These 7 new airtankers will support CAL FIRE’s existing fleet of aircraft from air attack bases strategically located throughout California.

CREW
Three-person crew; pilot, co-pilot, and flight engineer.

PAYLOAD
4,000 gallons long-term fire retardant.

SPECIFICATIONS
Gross Weight: 155,000 pounds
Max. Operating Speed: 368 mph
Range: Loaded: 800 miles/Empty: 3,000 miles
Endurance: 8 hours
Wing Span: 133 feet
Engines: Four Allison T56-A-15 turboprops; producing 4,300 horsepower each