

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection



UH-1H SUPER HUEY HELICOPTER

MANUFACTURER

Bell Helicopters, Fort Worth, Texas

ORIGINAL OWNER

U.S. Army, 1963 to 1975. The UH-1H was used as a troop and cargo transport and specialized operations.

ACQUIRED BY CAL FIRE

In 1981, CAL FIRE acquired 12 UH-1F helicopters from the Air Force. They were modified for fire fighting and used by CAL FIRE until 1990 when they were replaced by newer, highly modified, Vietnam-era UH-1H helicopters. Referred to as the "Super Huey", CAL FIRE has 12 available statewide (with two stationed in Sacramento for maintenance relief.).

MISSION

CAL FIRE uses the Super Hueys for fast initial attack on wildfires. The copters are able to quickly deliver a nine-person fire crew wherever needed as well as battle fires with water/foam drops. The copters are also used for medical evacuations, backfiring operations on wildland fires, to ignite prescribed burns using either a helitorch or a ping-pong ball machine - Chemical Ignition Device System (CIDS), cargo transport (internal and external loads), re-seeding operations, infra-red mapping of incidents, and numerous non-fire emergency missions. Since 1997, CAL FIRE helicopter crews have been trained to do "short haul" rescues. Short haul involves a crew member being lowered from a hovering helicopter to an injured or trapped person below. Once hooked to a harness or basket, both the victim and crew member are then carried a short distance to safety.

CREW

One pilot, two fire captains, and eight firefighters.

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

