

AVIATION OPERATIONS (Revised September 2001)

8311

Air attack and helitack base locations and aircraft deployment is designed to reduce the number of large fires through the capability of airtankers and helicopters to place retardants and personnel at the fire scene before ground forces and to support these forces.

Aircraft initial response criteria have been established to deliver retardants to the fire scene (on state responsibility lands) within 20 minutes of dispatch and to provide follow-up aircraft as needed. This response criteria plan was developed to include the use of USFS and BLM aircraft. It is recognized that certain aircraft now supported by the USFS would be needed by the department to provide the same level of protection should the USFS lose its current level of support.

Presently, the plan includes seventeen primary air attack bases in California, six of which are jointly operated with the USFS. In addition, three reload bases are situated throughout California. See [Air Attack Base Location Map](#).

There are presently nine helitack bases operated by CDF. These are a combination of separate facilities, joint operated at fire stations to being collocated with air attack bases. See map and base listing in [Helitack Base Location Map](#).

Currently the department operates eleven utility (UH-1) medium helicopters on loan from the U.S. Federal Excess Property Program. Nine of these aircraft are stationed at helitack bases. Two aircraft are held in reserve for maintenance support.

A current inventory of CDF aircraft can be found in the exhibit, CDF Aircraft Inventory (*coming soon*).

A listing of the annual aircraft base assignments and contract periods for all agencies can be found in the exhibit Annual Base Assignment-Contract period (*coming soon*).

[\(see next section\)](#)

[\(see HB Table of Contents\)](#)

[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)