

Fire-Rescue Department

# Air Operations Section

Aircraft and Capabilities



# Air Operations

## Copter 2 Day/Night

- Bell 412EP Twin-Engine Helicopter
- Twin-Engine for one-engine-inoperative performance – SAFETY
- Manufactured in 2008
  - Seventeen years old
- Capable of seating Pilot + 14 (Normally equipped for 6+ Pilot)
- 375-gallon maximum water drop capability
- Rescue hoist
- Trakka/Night Sun, No FLIR/Camera
- Advanced Life Support Rescue Aircraft
  - Can land at Scripps LJ, Sharp Memorial, Palomar, Children's





# Air Operations

## Copter 3 Day/Night

- Safest multi-mission helicopter ever produced
- Modern cockpit & systems
- Twin-Engine for one-engine-inoperative performance – SAFETY
- Copter 3 can deliver between 133 and 233 percent more water per drop than Copter 2 or 4. (1,000 gallons vs. 375 gallons)
- Capable of seating Pilot + 14
- Manufactured in 2018
- Rescue hoist
- Trakka/Night Sun, No FLIR/Camera
- Advanced Life Support Rescue Aircraft
  - Can land at Scripps La Jolla and Palomar





# Air Operations

## Copter 4 Day/Night

- 2024 Bell 412 EPX
- Modern and improved version of Copter 2, with increased power, performance, cockpit and flight equipment
- 375 gallon maximum water drop capability
- Capable of seating Pilot + 14 (Normally equipped for 6+Pilot)
- Rescue hoist
- Trakka/Night Sun, No FLIR/Camera
- Advanced Life Support Rescue Aircraft
  - Can land at Scripps LJ, Sharp Memorial, Children's, Palomar



# Cooperating Agencies



## Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Agencies

### Fire-Rescue ALS Hoist Helicopters (C10, C11, C12)

- Daytime only Firefighting and Hoist Rescue
- 2 Bell 205A1++ Helicopters and 1 Bell 412EPX

### Contract Fire Helicopter

- 9CU Day/Night CH-47D (3000Gal.)

### Law Enforcement Helicopters (ASTREA)

- Day and Night FLIR/Camera/Night Sun
- Bell 407 Helicopters



# Bell 205 A1 ++ Fire-Rescue Helicopter

## Copter 10 and 12

Capable of seating Pilot + 8  
(normally outfitted for  
5+pilot)  
375-gallon max. water  
drop capacity  
Rescue hoist  
Advanced Life Support  
Rescue Aircraft



# Bell 412EPX Fire-Rescue Helicopter

## Copter 11

Capable of seating Pilot + 8  
(5+pilot normally)  
375-gallon water drop  
capacity  
Rescue hoist  
Advanced Life Support  
Rescue Aircraft



**BELL 412EPX**

- 23 Grumman S-2T 1,200 Gallon Airtankers
- 16 Sikorsky S70i Helicopters
- 14 OV-10A Air Tactical Aircraft
- 13 Air Attack and 9 Helitack Bases

These are statewide resources



Copter 538 Bell 205A1++  
375 Gallon Fixed Tank

Helitanker S64F SkyCrane  
2,650 Gallon Fixed Tank





Daytime only

Copter 126 UH60A 1000 Gallon Fixed Tank

Copter 127 UH60A 1000 Gallon Fixed Tank

Copter 128 UH60A 1000 Gallon Fixed Tank

Copter 9GE AIRBUS H145 ISR



# Air Operations

## Current Situation

- Climate change causing year-round fire season
- Fires are spreading more rapidly and larger loss of life and structures than ever before
- Helicopters capable of increased water delivery are critical
- More water delivered = increases odds of extinguishing fires quickly





# Night Aerial Firefighting

- FIRESCOPE NIGHT FLYING GUIDE ICS 800
  - Nighttime aerial initial attack operations should not occur before verification that at least one of the Night Flying Operational Assessments has been met:
    - Life Threat
    - Structure Threat
    - Critical Infrastructure Threat
    - Action Will Limit Significant Fire Growth