

## **DFPC Aerial Firefighting Assets for 2021**

This document provides a summary of the Aerial Firefighting Assets owned or contracted by the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC) in order to fulfill our mission to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property, resources, environment, and quality of life in Colorado. These aircraft are available to all state and local fire agencies within Colorado depending on availability. Aircraft information and approximate costs are listed below. Funds may be available to assist State and Local Agencies with State aircraft costs.

### **Current Firefighting Aircraft**

#### **Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA)**

##### ***2 - Pilatus PC-12***

DFPC Owned. Available 365 days a year, no cost for initial response within Colorado. Centennial CO based.

The Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) program was developed specifically to provide early detection of wildland fires and to support ongoing fires with decision-quality data that enhances firefighter safety and supports the effectiveness of other firefighting resources. The MMA are equipped with modern sensing, processing, and communication systems that allow for gathering and disseminating real-time wildfire and incident information. The MMA crew may be tasked to perform aerial supervision and provide assistance to Incident Commanders (IC) regarding fire behavior, weather monitoring, assisting crews with access, operational mapping, and communication links.

These aircraft are authorized through a Cooperator Agreement to operate over all lands, regardless of jurisdiction

#### **Helicopters**

##### ***2 - Bell 205++ - \$1900 per flight hour***

DFPC Contracted. Available 120 (2021 increased to 230 days) consecutive days each May-October (2021 April thru November). One helicopter is based in each location of Montrose and Cañon City.

The DFPC helitack program was developed to provide experienced aerial delivered firefighting crews and helicopter support. Helicopters are capable of direct suppression via water or retardant drops, internal and external cargo delivery, firefighter transport and includes; assisting with large fire support. Each crew consists of 12 DFPC Firefighters with qualifications and experience such that a crew could assume command on a fire, break into modules of experienced firefighters, or fill in helibase support needs. Each helicopter is operated by a contracted fire experienced pilot, mechanic and fuel truck driver.

Both helitack modules and aircraft are certified for traditional helitack operations on all lands, along with STEP operations (Single skid, Toe-in, hover Exit Program) firefighter delivery on all but US Forest Service Lands. In 2019 the helitack crew out of Cañon City Colorado implemented night operations capability but only for initial attack extended operations.

## Air Tankers

**2 - Air Tractor 802** - \$3400 per flight hour

DFPC Contracted. Available 150 (2021 increased to 240 days) consecutive days each April-October (2021 April thru November).

Loveland CO based, however will be moved so that aircraft can work in tandem throughout the State as fire danger warrants.

The DFPC Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) program is intended to provide rapid aerial delivery of fire retardant or suppressant. Each SEAT can carry up to 800 gallons of retardant, suppressant (water enhancer from Loveland) or water. The SEATs will be co-located to provide for better initial attack capability as a pair. SEATs may operate out of the DFPC “home” bases at Rifle CO or NoCo Airport in Loveland CO, or be staged at other interagency bases located throughout the state.

These aircraft are authorized to operate over all lands, regardless of jurisdiction.

## Current Call When Needed (CWN) Contracted Firefighting Aircraft

### **On Call Air Tankers - available 365 days a year on a call-when-needed basis**

- The DFPC “CWN” Air Tanker program is intended to provide aerial firefighting capability outside of the exclusive use SEAT contract period listed above, or during times of surge fire activity when additional aerial firefighting resources are needed in Colorado. Availability of CWN aircraft is not guaranteed, and dedicated funding is not available for these resources.
- DFPC has CWN contracts for Air Tankers with a variety of capacities, capabilities and response times:
- **3 SEAT companies, of which 2 are located in Colorado (Ft Morgan & Sterling).**
- **1 Large Air Tanker (LAT) located in California (GST most likely going out of business).**

## CWN SEATS

**Air Tractor 802 or 602** - \$2500 - \$3500 per flight hour, \$2999-\$3500 per day

DFPC Contracted. Response times can be within minutes during periods of high fire danger, depending on aircraft and flight crew availability. During unexpected wildfire events, or when local SEATs are committed elsewhere, out of state SEATS could

respond within approximately 3 hours.

These SEATS are authorized for operations over any jurisdiction.

### **CWN Large AirTankers (LAT)**

**Airstrike P3 Orion** - \$19,000 to \$22,000 per flight hour, flight and daily rate is variable.

DFPC Contracted. The Airstrike P3 Orion LATs are agile powerful aircraft, capable taking off and landing at all retardant bases in Colorado with ability to carry 2550 gallons without restrictions. Response time for the P3 Orion(s) would be within approximately 3 hours of notification, from California. The company is planning to park one aircraft in Colorado in June, 2019.

These LATs are authorized for operations over State and Private Lands at this time. A Cooperator Agreement is being worked on to include Federal lands.

### **National Guard Firefighting Aircraft**

Availability subject to military deployment and Governor's approval.

Pilots and crews attend annual interagency fire training and interagency authorization.

**7 Eurocopter UH-72** - \$3,000 minimum Daily cost

4 Medical Aircraft and Crews with canopy penetrating hook for Hoist operations

3 High Altitude Aircraft

These aircraft are not capable of water drop operations and are best suited to aerial supervision or medical uses.

**7 Sikorski UH-60 Blackhawks** - \$7,000 minimum Daily cost

All Hoist capable and trained in aerial fire suppression

\*CH-47 Chinooks may be available. NG Aircraft are available for operation on all lands regardless of jurisdiction.

**\*For most current aircraft location, contact your local interagency dispatch center for the daily tactical aviation report\***

### **Additional Aircrafts to be Contracted in 2021**

#### **Exclusive Use Aircraft**

**Exclusive Use Large Air Tanker (3,000-gallon capacity LAT)**

**Tentative Award: June 2021**

**Location: Broomfield, Colorado**

**Make/Model/Price: TBD**

DFPC Contracted. Available 120 consecutive days June 2021-October 2021, from 2022 forward,

may be available 120 consecutive days May-October time frame.

**Exclusive Use Type 1 (Heavy) Helicopter (restricted)**

**Tentative Award: June 2021**

**Location: Montrose Colorado**

**Make/Model/Price: TBD**

DFPC Contracted. Available 120 consecutive days June 2021-October 2021, from 2022 forward to be determined.

**Call When Needed Aircraft**

**CWN AMHIBIOUS SEATS (Fire Boss)**

**Tentative Award: May 2021**

**Price: TBD**

DFPC Contracted. These aircraft are Air Tractor 802's with both wheels and floats. These aircraft can be loaded with up to 800 gallons of retardant, suppressant, or water on land, or can scoop water from approved area reservoirs. Response time could be within approximately 3 hours if ordered from out of state. Can be ordered on standby during periods of high fire danger.

These amphibious SEATs will be authorized for operations over any jurisdiction.

**CWN Canadair CL-415 (Scooper)**

**Tentative Award: July 2021**

**Price: TBD**

DFPC Contracted. These aircraft can be loaded with up to 1400 gallons of retardant, suppressant, or water on land, or can scoop water from approved area reservoirs. These aircraft are purpose built to scoop water and drop on fires. Response time could be within approximately 3 hours if ordered from out of state. Can be ordered on standby during periods of high fire danger.

These amphibious aircraft will be authorized for operations over any jurisdiction.

**Aircraft In Purchase Phase**

**Sikorski 70i (Firehawk)**

**Restricted Public Aircraft Operations (PAO)**

**Tentative Start: November 2022**

DFPC Owned. Available 365 days a year. Home Base location TBD. (1,000 Gallon tank)