



Columbia Helicopters is a leader in aerial firefighting and has provided this service globally since 1967. Columbia's fleet of heavy-lift helicopters are Columbia Model 234 Chinook, Columbia Model CH-47D Chinook and Columbia Model 107-II Vertol. Each aircraft is suited for a variety of missions in support of fire suppression. Columbia's fleet deploys to fires with the SEI Torrentula Bambi Bucket with Powerfill System or the Simplex Fire Attack System (FAS) internal water tank. The appropriate aircraft and fire suppression methods are determined by customer needs and aircraft performance.

Water Tanks

Our fire tanks are available for the Columbia Model CH-47D helicopters. These tanks are capable of holding 2,800 gallons (10,599 liters) of water and a foam tank capacity of 139.7 gallons (529 liters). The pilot can drop the load of water using multiple water drop settings from the cockpit. These options, in addition to the telemetry unit system, allow the helicopter to assist ground crews in the most effective and efficient method possible. When utilizing a fire tank, our skilled pilots hover precisely over water bodies allowing the snorkel to fill the fire tank in as little as 60 seconds.

Bambi Buckets

Columbia's fleet can deploy to fires with the SEI Torrentula Bambi Bucket with Powerfill System. Each bucket contains four high-speed pumps that can fill the bucket in less than 90 seconds from sources as shallow as just 18 inches. In addition to filling from traditional water sources such as lakes, ponds, rivers and oceans, these versatile water buckets and fire tanks snorkels can be filled from shallow streams and ponds. Buckets are typically suspended 200 feet below the helicopter, allowing Columbia's pilots to access tree-lined streams and ponds, or other restricted-access water sources.

FIREFIGHTING

SPECIALIZED MISSION EQUIPMENT

- SEI Bambi Water bucket
- Simplex Internal Water Tank
- Tank snorkel
- Cargo hook and rigging
- Rescue basket
- Disaster/rescue kits
- Specialist rigging
- Cargo delivery options

FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

- Crew transport
- Passenger transport
- Water bucket operations
- External long line
- Logistical support
- Aerial reconnaissance
- Aerial mapping
- Internal cargo transport
- High Rise Fire support

QUICK STATS

- CH-47D Fire tank capacity:
2,800 gallons
- 234/CH-47D Bucket capacity:
2,600 gallons
- 107-II Bucket capacity:
1,300 gallons
- Fire tank can be filled in 60 seconds
and emptied in 3 seconds
- Fire tank and bucket can
accommodate foam, gel and
retardant in addition to water
- CH-47D helicopters are 24% faster
and 40% more fuel efficient than
other helicopters in its class



Positioning Water Drops Effectively

Once the aircraft is over the fire, Columbia's pilots are able to drop suppressants and retardants in a variety of ways that best meet the needs of the ground fire fighters. The pilots can create a massive fire line by partially opening the bucket/tank while in forward flight. They can open and close the gate to dispense a series of spot drops, or they can hit those stubborn hotspots with precise, massive spot drop.

Bubble windows on both the pilot's and co-pilot's sides facilitate quick pick up and provide a full view of the drop area to ensure obstacle clearance and enhance safe load delivery. Once over the location, the load is placed precisely over the designated target and the pilot electrically opens the bucket/tank's gate.