Columbia Helicopters is a leader in aerial firefighting and has provided this service globally since 1967. Columbia’s heavy-lift fleet consists of Vertol 107-II, Chinook 234 and CH-47D helicopters. Each aircraft is suited for a variety of missions in support of fire suppression. The Chinook 234 provides the largest gross weight allowance for any helicopter in its class at 51,000 pounds (23,133 kilograms).

Columbia provides fire suppression with a water bucket or a fire tank. The appropriate aircraft and method is determined by customer needs and aircraft performance.

THE BEST EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB

Water Buckets
Columbia’s fleet deploys 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 tank 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. We also employ the use of portable dip tanks, which are 5,000-gallon tanks on wheels that can be easily filled nearby and pulled by truck or helicopter to the fire, acting as improvised bucket-filling sources for our pilots.

**Water Tanks**

Fire tanks are available for the CH-47D helicopter. These tanks are capable of holding 2,800 gallons (10,600 Liters) of water. 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.

**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 and copilot's side facilitate quick pickup, 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.

Visit our website at www.colheli.com for more information or to contact us for a quote.

**Specialized Mission Equipment Available**

- Night vision goggles
- Water bucket
- Fire tank
- Tank snorkel
- Foam/salter cannon
- Cargo hook and rigging
- Rescue basket
- Disaster/rescue kits
- Specialized rigging
- Various cargo delivery options

**Quick Stats**

- Fire Tank Capacity: 2,800 gallons (10,600 Liters)
- 107 Bucket Capacity: 1,300 gallons (5,000 Liters)
- 234 / CH47D Bucket Capacity: 2,600 gallons (9,800 Liters)
- Fire tank can be installed or removed in 1 hour
- 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

**Firefighting Capabilities**

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