

FIREHAWK® Helicopter Described As ‘Best All-In-One’ Aerial Firefighter

Sikorsky honors California fire chiefs who've selected S-70i™ FIREHAWK® helicopter



Firehawk Fire Chiefs: Chief Dennis Brown of CAL FIRE, Deputy Chief Vince Pena of Los Angeles County and Chief Chuck Macfarland of San Diego Fire-Rescue spoke and were recognized for their choosing the Sikorsky S-70i™ FIREHAWK® helicopter.

ANAHEIM, California, Jan. 28, 2020 – Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company (NYSE: LMT) today recognized and thanked the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue and the State of California’s Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for their commitment to aerial fire-fighting operations with the S-70i™ Firehawk® helicopter.

Each of the three fire services recently took delivery of the new-generation aircraft for wildland firefighting, search and rescue and medical transport. The LACoFD aircraft is prominently displayed here in Sikorsky’s expo booth at this week’s 2020 Helicopter Association International Heli-Expo, where San Diego and CAL FIRE’s aircraft also are on the exhibit floor.

“At hundreds of brush fires and medical rescues, the Sikorsky Firehawk has proven to simply be the best all-in-one aerial firefighting weapon,” said Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby. “We can carry more firefighters to the fire line, and repeatedly support them by dropping thousands of gallons of water with precision and with a fast turnaround. And we can perform hoist rescues at close to 10,000 feet altitude, as well as provide critical paramedic service at municipal and extremely remote locations. It took courage for Sikorsky to stick with us as they did in the early 2000s when we tested and adapted the aerial fire-rescue tactics of the first variant. LA County along with Sikorsky Firehawk helicopters have led the way and will continue to lead the way always looking to provide the public with the service they deserve and expect. But look where we are now — the state of California and other municipalities are going to derive benefits from years of pioneering work.”

Compared to LACoFD’s three S-70A FIREHAWK aircraft, the new-generation S-70i model brings more power, greater maneuverability and lift capabilities, as well as enhanced flight safety. Systems integrator United Rotorcraft, a division of Air Methods, configured the three aircraft with an extended landing gear and a 1,000-gallon (3,785 liter) belly water tank manufactured by Kawak Aviation Technologies.

“We thank the State of California, Los Angeles County and the City of San Diego for their collective trust in the men and women of Sikorsky Aircraft, who strongly believe, as did our founder Igor Sikorsky, that helicopters should serve humankind,” said Jeanette Eaton, Sikorsky Regional Executive for North America. “As these first three new-generation Firehawk helicopters are placed into service to preserve lives and property, Sikorsky is putting in place programs to support California’s firefighters with world-class logistics and technical support that will ensure flight readiness for decades to come.”

CAL FIRE, which operates the world’s largest aerial firefighting fleet, intends to deploy a total of 12 S-70i FIREHAWK helicopters across the state following deliveries by Sikorsky and United Rotorcraft over the next four years. LACoFD also will receive its second of two aircraft this year.

For more information, see www.lockheedmartin.com/firehawk

About Lockheed Martin

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