
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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California National Guard and CAL FIRE to Conduct Joint Helicopter Training

Sacramento –CAL FIRE aviation personnel will be conducting a joint helicopter training exercise with members of B. Company, 126th Aviation Regiment of the California National Guard on Friday, May 15, 2009. Having just returned from a year long deployment in Afghanistan, members of B. Company will be piloting two CH 47 Chinook helicopters equipped with 2,000 gallon water buckets and practicing water drops under the direction of CAL FIRE aviation personnel.

CAL FIRE and the California National Guard have conducted joint training prior to the beginning of the summer fire activity period since 1995. “CAL FIRE appreciates the California National Guard’s dedication and is confident they will provide ready assistance when fire suppression forces require augmentation during times of extreme fire activity.” said CAL FIRE Director Del Walters.

The helicopters will depart Stockton Airport at 1:00 p.m. for Cal FIRE’s Baseline Conservation Camp. Baseline Conservation Camp is located at 16809 New Peoria Road, which is approximately seven miles south of Jamestown (Tuolumne County), off of State Highway 108. At approximately 1:30 p.m. the Chinooks will attach their water buckets and conduct water dropping runs in the foothills surrounding New Melones Lake. Media will be able to view the drops from Baseline Camp.

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