

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY



SNORKEL OPERATIONS

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The Orange County Fire Authority Air Operations section was created in 1994. Based out of the Fullerton Municipal Airport, the section operates two new 2008 Bell 412EP's and two 1966 Bell UH-1H "Super Hueys".

The OCFA AirOps helicopters are normally staffed with a Fire Pilot and Fire Captain / Crew Chief - ten hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year. On major incidents coverage is expanded to meet the needs of the incident. OCFA helicopters have a primary mission of fire fighting operations and secondary mission of remote rescue operations. In addition, personnel and equipment can be added or carried to meet the mission requirements; i.e. up to nine additional firefighters, or a full Urban Search and Rescue Truck crew, who are trained in swift water rescue and remote rescue operations and / or medical personnel (EMTs) when called upon to assist in transporting critically injured patients.

Each aircraft is equipped with a 360 - 375 gallon belly tank and 450 GPM hydraulic driven snorkel, which enables the helicopters to re-fill their belly tank at a hover in as little as 25 seconds.

Each helicopter is also equipped with state of the art computerized fire mapping system, dual GPS, dual VHF AM & FM radios and a 5 million candlepower SX-5 night-vision light. A Goodrich hoist, rated at 600 pounds, is mounted on the right side of the cabin to assist with remote rescue operations.

With a top speed of 120 knots, the helicopters can be anywhere in Orange County within 15-20 minutes from Fullerton Airport and on Remote Rescues / Medical aids, from any scene call / incident within the county to the closest Hospital / Trauma Center with 5-6 minutes.

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