

# News Release

National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Ave.  
Boise, ID 83705

<http://www.nifc.gov>



**For Release:** July 16, 2024

**Contact:** Stanton Florea, 208-387-5437  
[stanton.florea@usda.gov](mailto:stanton.florea@usda.gov)

## **Military aircraft equipped with Modular Airborne Firefighting Systems (MAFFS) mobilized to assist with wildfires**

**Boise, Idaho** – The Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service has activated four Department of Defense C-130 aircraft equipped with MAFFS to assist with increased wildfire activity across the West. One aircraft has been mobilized from each of the participating units: The Air Force Reserve Command’s 302<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado, the California Air National Guard’s 146<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, the Nevada Air National Guard’s 152<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Wing and the Wyoming Air National Guard’s 153<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing.

The four aircraft are joining the Forest Service and other state and federal agencies fighting wildfires across the West. They are initially working out of Channel Islands Air National Guard Station in Port Hueneme, California.

Having military C-130s that can be converted into airtankers provides a critical “surge” capability that can be used to bolster wildfire suppression efforts when commercial airtankers are fully committed or not readily available. The C-130 aircraft are equipped with the U.S. Forest Service’s MAFFS, which can drop up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant in less than 10 seconds across a quarter-mile line. The system slides into the back of the military aircraft, and retardant is released through a nozzle on the rear left side. The national MAFFS program is comprised of a total of eight C-130 aircraft.

On July 10, the National Wildland Fire Preparedness Level was elevated to 4 (out of 5), reflecting increased wildland fire activity across the U.S. The level was raised by the National Multi-Agency Coordination Group, composed of wildland fire representatives from each wildland fire agency based at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho - the nation's support center for wildland firefighting.

For more information on the MAFFS program, visit: [www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/planes/maffs](http://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/planes/maffs).  
For background photos and videos of the program, visit: [www.dvidshub.net/feature/MAFFSAEG](http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/MAFFSAEG).

###

*The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), located in Boise, Idaho, is the nation's support center for wildland firefighting. Nine different agencies and organizations are part of NIFC including, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, U.S. Fire Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, National Association of State Foresters, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Park Service.*

