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# CDF NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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### **CDF Activates DC-10 SuperTanker on Day Fire in Southern California Wide Body Jet Aircraft Prepared for Fire Retardant Drop**

Victorville -- The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) today activated a modified DC-10 to drop fire retardant on the Day Fire in Southern California.

A three-member flight crew aboard the DC 10 Supertanker (Tanker 910) is working in coordination with CDF support personnel to drop the retardant if weather is permitting. The activation comes at the request of the CDF Incident Command Team which has been assisting the US Forest Service with the coordination of firefighting efforts on the blaze. The Day Fire, which began on Labor Day, has burned over 127,000 acres in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. In acreage alone, it is the eighth largest California wildland fire recorded since 1932. The next largest acreage fire was the Wheeler Fire of 1985 at 118,000 acres.

The DC 10 SuperTanker has been utilized by CDF this summer since its maiden voyage on the Sawtooth Complex in San Bernardino in July. It has dropped retardant on the Rico Fire in Monterey County, the Horse Fire in San Diego County and in Washington state on the Columbia Complex. The DC-10 Supertanker has three, computer-controlled, constant flow external tanks with a capacity of 12,000 U.S. gallons of retardant. The operational objective is for the aircraft to build a buffer of retardant between the wildfire and communities at risk, thereby allowing ground crews to get in position to build a containment line. Tanker 910 was certified or "carded" by the CDF Aviation Management Unit in July after the aircraft was tested repeatedly with numerous drops in the desert as well as runs on higher elevations. The DC 10 SuperTanker is certified by the Federal Aviation Administration and meets the same stringent maintenance standards as U.S. passenger airlines with enhancements tailored specifically for the fire mission.

The DC-10 is a former American Airlines passenger jet that was modified and tested over a four-year development program by 10 Tanker Air Carrier LLC using extensive private investment capital. A demonstration of Tanker 910 took place in late March for state fire officials and the media at 10 Tanker's base on Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville, formerly the George Air Force Base, located in the Mojave Desert. Tanker 910 is currently leased on a "call when needed" basis by CDF at a cost of \$26,500 per hour with a minimum use of three hours.

The crew and DC 10 are available for media today at Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville.