Columbia's Chinook CH-47D at the Beaver Creek Wildfire, Colorado, 2016

There are two Chinooks in the world with internal belly tanks capable of dropping 2,800 gallons of water in three seconds. One of them is assigned to the Beaver Creek Fire, defending structures and dousing hotspots, and drafting a full tank of water with its "snorkel" in two minutes flat. With a payload capacity of 13 tons, it uses up 1,028 gallons of fuel in about three hours. Based in Portland, the ship for now awaits fire calls from Steamboat Springs.

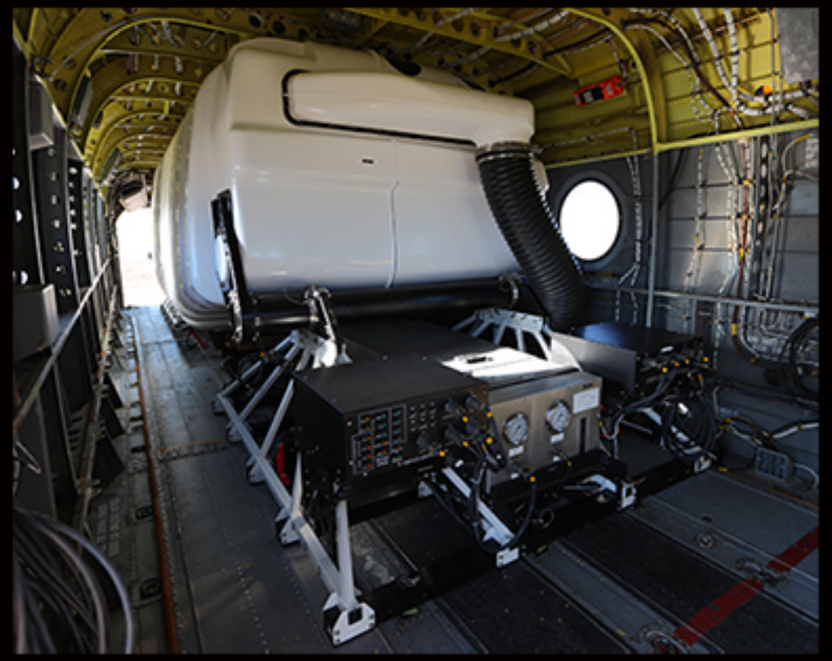

Photo Identifications from Top Left to Bottom Right: 1. Drafting from pond at Beaver Creek Fire: Tim Downham Photo 2. Trail drop training: Dan Sweet Photo 3. CH-47D drafting with snorkel: Dan Sweet Photo 4. CH-47D Taxis: Dan Sweet Photo 5. Internal Tank: Dan Sweet Photo.