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(Wyo.)-Air National Guard C-130s Get Practice Fighting Wildfires

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/07/2013 10:01 AM

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Members of the Wyoming Air National Guard are getting practice this week using specially equipped C-130 cargo planes to fight wildfires.

Two C-130s based in Cheyenne are fitted with a device called a Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System, or MAFFS.

The MAFFS are built on large, metal pallets and are rolled into the back of C-130s. Usually the devices spray fire retardant but for training purposes they're being loaded with water instead.

Crews are getting practice this week dropping water on remote areas. Two target areas are located near Pole Mountain in southeast Wyoming and Red Feather Lakes in northern Colorado.

Other MAFFS-equipped C-130s are based in California, Colorado and North Carolina. The planes saw heavy duty during the busy fire season last year.