



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### HELOAIR AWARDED COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY HELICOPTER WATER BUCKET AERIAL FOREST FIRE SUPPRESSION CONTRACT

**February 18, 2010** - HeloAir, Richmond, VA - The Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Forestry, awarded HeloAir a contract for wildfire suppression. The primary location will be the Eastern Region, but HeloAir may be called to any area within the Commonwealth should the need arise.

From sunrise to sunset, for a five week period, HeloAir crews and equipment will be standing by, ready to respond immediately to any wildfire.

The main causes of Virginia wildfires are open burning, arson, and smoking. Only around 3% of wildfires are caused by lightning in the Old Dominion State.

Each year, about 1,600 wildfires consume a total of 8,000-10,000 acres of forest and grassland in the Commonwealth. During the fall drought of 2001, Virginia lost more than 13,000 acres to wildfires. With experience in wildfire suppression all around the country, HeloAir is proud to help their home state of Virginia.