

Three dead after Large Air Tanker crashes while fighting bushfires in southern NSW

By [Kevin Nguyen](#)

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PHOTO: The C-130 which crashed while fighting a bushfire in southern NSW. (AAP Image: Dan Himbrechts)

Three crew members died when a Large Air Tanker crashed while fighting a bushfire west of Cooma.

"Tragically, there appears to be no survivors as a result of the crash down in the Snowy Monaro area," NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said.

"[The aircraft] impacted heavily with the ground and initial reports are that there was a large fireball associated with the impact of the plane as it hit the ground."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said there was no indication on what caused the accident.

The Lockheed C-130 Hercules was chartered by the RFS from American aerial firefighting company, Coulson Aviation (USA).

The RFS said it was engaged in "routine" waterbombing activities at the time of the crash.

Extracted from:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-23/nsw-rfs-air-tanker-crashes-near-numeralla-bushfire/11893554?pfmredirect=sm> (updated)

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