



CalPilots DART Overview

Mission Statement:

In response to a cataclysmic event which degrades regional surface transportation, California pilots and their aircraft will provide volunteer emergency airlift services to benefit their surrounding communities.

Concept of Operations:

CalPilots operates a DART network which consists of DART Operators and DART Supporters at various airports around the state. The DART Operator is a Disaster Airlift Response Team which operates at a particular airport and conducts practice mobilization exercises once per year. The DART Operator consists of pilots and administrative staff who together organize and provide free air transportation during an emergency under Part 91 flight rules. The DART Operator encourages Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) and local city and county emergency managers to participate with them in their practice exercises. DART Operators can request Mutual Aid from other DART Operators and from DART Supporters in the California DART Network Contact List. The DART Supporter is a small group of pilots at an airport who don't operate a DART, but who have agreed to call upon their pilots to assist other DART Operators who request it, and who are able to call upon DART Operators in the California DART Network Contact List for their assistance. Additionally, DART Supporters are encouraged to reach out to the VOADs and emergency managers around the airport to let them know they can work to bring in airlift resources to help communities and emergency responders cope with a local disaster.

In a DART, pilots do what they already know how to do – fly from one airport to another and give people or things a ride. A variety of other DART volunteers guided by an Operations Director, a Flight Ops Manager, a Materiel Manager, a Ramp Manager, and a Recruitment Manager assemble the team, take in flight requests, weigh the cargo, assign materiel and passengers to be transported on specific aircraft, maintain safety, help pilots load, and so on. Air transportation services can include:

- Transfer of displaced individuals and families to distant locations where they have family or friends who can care for them.
- Large scale food airlift into the area.
- Movement of emergency workers into or out of the area.
- Reservoir reconnaissance.
- Movement of ambulatory medical patients to out-of-area facilities.
- Relocation of nursing home residents to out-of-area facilities who can care for them.

For More Information:

Contact the CalPilots DART Program Manager Paul Marshall at paul.marshall@calpilots.org. The DART plan was authored by Rod Pharis who participated in the Loma Prieta Airlift – see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISpT0p4XY_A