



California Association of Air Medical Services

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Representing The Air Medical Transport Community

San Diego County Fire EMCC
September 28, 2023

About Cal-AAMS

- A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit established as a chapter of the national Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS).
- **Mission:** To provide a **forum** for the providers involved with the air medical industry, in order to promote the highest level of operational, crew, and patient **safety** and a commitment to delivering excellence in **clinical care** while transporting the critically ill or injured.
- **Vision:** To represent a **unified** voice for the entire air medical transport community, and through common effort, improve the health outcomes of the populations we serve.
- **Function:** promote safety and clinical **education**, and the exchange of information among programs throughout our state and across the country.
- www.calaams.org

Activities

- Produce and Present Safety Education, In-Person and Virtual
- Represent the Air Medical Services industry. Venues include:
 - a. **AAMS** Government Relations Forum
 - b. **California Hospital Association**
 - c. **CalChiefs** EMS Section
 - d. **EMSA** Director's Advisory Group
 - e. **EMSAAC/EMDAC** Board
 - f. **EMS Commission**
 - g. **Trauma** Regulations WG

Our Members:

→ Mercy Air / Air Methods



CAL-ORE



CALSTAR



Care Flight



CHP



Enloe



Hall Ambulance Service



HELINET



MERCY FLIGHTS



REACH



SEMSA



Sierra LifeFlight



SkyLife Central



Stanford Life Flight



PHI



Access to Air Ambulances in California

- Approx. 62 air ambulance aircraft operated by Cal-AAMS members
- Approx. 18,500 patients transported annually
- Approx. 5500-6000 Medi-CAL patients annually



Air Ambulance Facts

- Most common staff configuration is a team consisting of a Pilot, Registered Nurse, & Paramedic
 - Specialty trained and certified
- Available 24/7/365 for emergency and non-emergency air ambulance patient transports
- Helicopter or airplane aircraft
 - Specialized interior requires FAA supplemental-type certification
- Extensively regulated by both state and federal authorities
 - DOT: uniform aviation safety and economic authority via the FAA
 - CA: regulates all aspects of healthcare (scope of practice, meds, equipment), as well as insurer payment for services

Air Ambulance Facts

- Requested for critically ill or injured patients by a physician in a facility, or by a first responder acting under physician-approved guidelines.
 - Time-sensitive illnesses or injuries: trauma, cardiac, vascular
 - Specialty transports: burns, neonatal, pediatric, obstetrical emergencies
 - Long distances: minimize out-of-hospital time
- Critical Care and Emergency Advanced Life Support
 - Specialized equipment manufactured to be capable, lightweight, and portable
 - Extensive supply of medications
 - ICU-level care during transport
- Decrease out-of-hospital time while providing ICU-level care
 - 2:1 provider to patient ratio

Disaster Response

- Essential to disaster planning
- Work in tandem with fire service, law enforcement, state and federal authorities
- Ability to provide disaster surge capability is 100% dependent upon day-to-day availability

CA Wildfires
Hurricane Ian
Covid

EMCC Membership

- LEMSAS Seating Air Medical on EMCC:
 - ✓ ICEMA
 - ✓ Riverside
 - ✓ Imperial
 - ✓ Santa Barbara
 - ✓ Contra Costa
 - ✓ Madera
- Comprehensive input to Board of Supervisors
- Ensure CQI in all aspects of EMS
- Inclusion of air transport considerations for service to the community
- Coordination of special services such as disaster surge

AAMS Cal-AAMS
Taking Care of Our Own



Our members share a dedication to safe and swift transportation while delivering the highest quality of patient care for every patient in need

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