The California DART Network Overview

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

Concept of Operations:
CalPilots operates a wholly owned subsidiary, The California DART Network (CalDART), which provides free disaster air transportation services. A DART is a Disaster Airlift Response Team. CalDART enables the managed utilization of General Aviation aircraft and pilots in the overall disaster response. Many of the 28,000 aircraft and 54,000 pilots in California will be available to assist in an emergency, but totally unfamiliar with what to do. CalDART makes it easier to use them when needed. DART Operators activate in response to their disaster partners’ and surrounding communities’ needs.

The DART Operator is a DART which conducts a practice mobilization exercise once per year and which has been accepted by The California DART Network. Core managers and pilots in the DART Operator are dues-paying CalDART/CalPilots members, but most participants in a DART Operator’s disaster mobilization may be non-member volunteer ground staff and pilots from the surrounding community. The DART Operator consists of pilots and administrative staff who together organize and provide free air transportation during a disaster 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 one or more pilots at an airport who don’t operate a DART, but who have agreed to call upon their local 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 community’s assistance. Additionally, DART Supporters are encouraged to reach out to the VOADs and emergency managers in communities around the airport to let them know they can request air transportation resources to help cope with a 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 DART ground volunteers guided by a DART Incident Commander, a Flight Operations Manager, a Materiel Manager, a Ramp Manager, a Recruitment Manager and other team members 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:

- Local disaster workers with long commutes to work (police, fire, EMS, utility, comms, transit, similar)
- External disaster workers transport into/out of the region
- Large scale food and/or supply airlift into the area (backup or augment state/federal resources)
- Transporting citizens (capacity constrained)
  - Fragile people evacuation (dialysis, seniors, Access and Functional Needs)
  - Reuniting families (long work or school commutes. Elderly parent in a different city)
  - Evacuating those without shelter
- Reconnaissance, search and rescue, aerial photography (backup to Civil Air Patrol)
CalDART Members, Supporters, and Operators are based at these airports. They can fly people and materiel to and from any of California’s approximately 250 public airports and neighboring states. Flights start shortly after a DART Operator is activated.

For More Information:
Visit [www.CalDART.org](http://www.CalDART.org), or, contact CalDART President Paul Marshall at paul.marshall@caldart.org. You can also watch how a DART-like mobilization after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake helped Watsonville and Santa Cruz in a 6-minute video at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lSpT0p4XY_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lSpT0p4XY_A). Please donate [here](http://www.CalDART.org) online.

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