



The California DART Network Overview

Mission Statement:

In response to a catastrophic event or disaster, 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 (CaIDART), which provides free disaster air transportation services. A DART is a Disaster Airlift Response Team. CaIDART 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 most pilots will not know exactly how to help. CaIDART makes it easier for them to volunteer when needed. DART Operators activate in response to their disaster partners' and surrounding communities' needs, and the DART Operators call upon the pilots to scale up their response as needed.

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 CaIDART/CalPilots members, but most participants in a DART Operator's actual 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 public benefit 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 CaIDART Members who may not be affiliated with specific DART Operators. Additionally, CaIDART members 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 through CaIDART 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 (augment state/federal resources)
- Transporting citizens
 - 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)

California DART Network Airport Map

Legend and counts:

- 12 DART Operators
- DART People at 46 add'l airports



CalDART Members, Friends, Donors, and Operators are based at these airports. The Operators 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, 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=ISpT0p4XY_A. Please donate [here](#) online.