



The California DART Network Overview

Mission Statement:

In response to a catastrophic event or disaster, California pilots and their aircraft will provide volunteer emergency air transportation services to benefit their surrounding communities.

Concept of Operations:

The California DART Network (CalDART) 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 most pilots will not know exactly how to help. CalDART makes it easier for them to volunteer when needed. DARTs activate in response to their disaster partners' and surrounding communities' needs, and call upon network DARTs and California's pilots to appropriately scale the response.

The DART conducts a practice mobilization exercise once per year and operates in accordance with CalDART. The DART may support a particular airport or a region with multiple airports. Core managers and pilots in the DART are dues-paying CalDART members, but many participants in a DART's actual disaster mobilization may be non-member volunteer ground staff and pilots from the surrounding community. The DART 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 encourages Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) and local city and county emergency managers to participate with them in their practice exercises. DARTs can request Mutual Aid from other DARTs and from CalDART Members who may not be affiliated with specific DARTs. Additionally, CalDART 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 CalDART to help cope with a disaster. Pilot organizations which host a DART are termed DART Operators. So, for example, if the Torrance Airport Association hosts a DART at its airport, the Torrance Airport Association is a DART Operator.

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. The person directing the operation is the DART Incident Commander—he or she may build up additional volunteer ground staff such as a Flight Operations Manager, a Customer Service Manager, a Ramp Manager, a Recruitment Manager or other staff. Together, they take in flight requests, weigh the cargo, assign material 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 split up at the onset of the disaster
 - Evacuating those without shelter
- Reconnaissance, search and rescue, aerial photography (backup to Civil Air Patrol)

California DART Network Airport Map

Legend and counts:

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



CalDART Members, Friends, Donors, and DARTs are based at these airports. The DARTs fly people and materiel to and from any of California's approximately 250 public airports and neighboring states. Flights start shortly after a DART is activated.

For More Information:

Visit www.CalDART.org, or, email at info@caldart.org. For urgent issues you may call the CalDART Duty Officer at 408 713 0646. Please donate [here](#) online.