Quick DART Implementation Checklist

Here's a quick overview of how to implement a DART (Disaster Airlift Response Team) at your airport.

1) Identify a person or team to lead the DART at your airport.
2) Have the organizers of the DART study and join CalDART at caldart.org.
3) Make the DART part of an existing local airport pilot organization if available. This helps to provide continuity over time and a broader base of support. The sponsoring organization members do not need to join CalDART, and only a subset of the members of that organization need to support the DART.
4) Have the DART organizers read CalDART's Disaster Airlift Response Plan (DARP). The plan is available at no charge to those DARTs who agree to provide mutual support to other DARTs in their region. Utilizing the plan provides these benefits:
   a. No time is wasted by each new DART "reinventing the wheel", the can simply benefit by incorporating the best practices learned to date.
   b. It is easier for regional DARTs to provide mutual aid to each other if they are all operating under the same set of procedures,
   c. It is easier for the emergency management community to understand and accept the value and wisdom of working with DARTs if they understand that all DARTs operate in essentially the same way,
   d. A clear operating model allows our insurer to underwrite our operations.
5) Solicit participation and/or support from pilots at your airport.
6) Inform and solicit the blessing of the owner and operator of your airport.
7) Have an annual exercise to practice mobilizing and operating your team.
8) Reach out to local disaster management organizations to
   a. advise them of your capability,
   b. monitor their activities and exercises, and
   c. create the opportunity to work together in an annual exercise.

A good place to start are the CERT organizations in surrounding communities, the Offices of Emergency Services staff at surrounding cities, the surrounding county Office of Emergency

Services Staff, your county VOAD, state emergency and aviation staff, and any regional emergency management organization that connects and coordinates emergency managers. Prepare a one-page summary sheet of your services offered (template available in the DARP) and contact information for people who would like to request the service. Meet these people face to face and find a way to maintain contact with them. If they have a regional periodic meeting of emergency managers that you can observe, that is a good way of staying connected.

9) Increase the capability of your DART by fund raising and purchasing equipment needed to operate at higher capacity. See the Ideal Equipment List in the DARP listed above for a starting point of what you need. You will need forms to organize your work and service, material handling equipment for weighing and moving goods to be transported, and many other similar items over and above the planes that your pilots provide.

10) Reach out to pilots at neighboring and regional airports to advise them of your capability and learn of their capability for mutual aid.

11) Maintain contact lists for your members, emergency management professionals, and sources of mutual aid to use in an actual emergency.

12) Make the surrounding community aware of your capability.

13) Be prepared to provide emergency airlift service to your community and surrounding region in a disaster. Your service will be irreplaceable in a disaster which impairs regional surface transportation. You can:

    a. evacuate people who have lost their homes,

    b. transport emergency workers to and from a disaster area,

    c. transport ambulatory medical patients in ways that support the overall disaster response,

    d. transport people in the local population to distant airports close to where they need to go when they are unable to drive to where they need to go on their own

    e. airlift in needed supplies and food to organizations who can detail what they need from other organizations who can provide what is needed at remote airports.