

AIRLIFT NORTHWEST



Airlift Northwest is the pre-eminent provider of air medical transport services in the Pacific Northwest, dedicated to providing safe, efficient air medical care to critically ill and injured infants, children and adults.

Working with first responders and referring health professionals throughout Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WAMI), Airlift Northwest transports patients to the best care for their medical conditions, whether local hospitals, regional trauma centers or specialty care centers in the contiguous United States or Canada.

Airlift Northwest's aircraft are equipped with the most up-to-date safety equipment and are strategically located at six bases throughout the Pacific Northwest. From these bases, emergency flight crews can be rapidly deployed to provide service to one of the largest and geographically varied land masses in the world - from isolated islands in Alaska to coastal villages in western Washington, desert communities in eastern Washington and mountainous areas of Idaho and Montana.

Airlift Northwest is an entity of UW Medicine, which also includes Harborview Medical Center, Northwest Hospital & Medical Center, Valley Medical Center, UW Medical Center, UW Neighborhood Clinics, UW Physicians and UW School of Medicine.

Airlift Northwest Fleet

Washington:

- Three EC-135 high-performance helicopters and one Augusta helicopter based in Bellingham, Arlington, Seattle and Olympia
- Fixed wing Pilatus PC-12
- Fixed wing Turbo Commander based in Yakima
- Fixed wing Learjet 31A based in Seattle

Alaska:

- One fixed wing Learjet 31A based in Juneau
- One fixed wing Turbo Commander based in Juneau

Expertise

All aircraft fly with teams of two registered nurses certified in advanced cardiac life support, advanced trauma life support, pediatric advanced life support, trauma nursing care, neonatal resuscitation, critical care nursing, emergency nursing and flight nursing. This high level of expertise is unique in the air medical industry and enables Airlift Northwest to provide critical care to patients in the air during transports.

Accreditation

Airlift Northwest has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Services, or CAMTS, since 1997. Airlift Northwest was the first air medical transport service in Southeast Alaska to receive this recognition, which is based on meeting a series of industry standards and best practices for patient care and safety.

Community Service

Airlift Northwest provides education and training and participates in community outreach throughout the region. Staff provide annual training in setting up safe landing zones for first responders and fire departments. They also review helipads annually, assist hospitals with training in order to make new helipads operational and help hospitals develop policies and procedures pertaining to aircraft safety.

Fiscal Year 2015 Statistics

Total patients served.....	3,168
Employees	99
Rotary-wing, inter-hospital transfers (percentage of total flights).....	41%
Rotary-wing, 9-1-1/EMS scene responses.....	28%
Fixed-wing flights.....	31%

AirCare Program

Airlift Northwest offers a membership program that provides communities with high-quality air medical service at an affordable cost. As part of the membership benefits, the portion of the bill not covered by insurance or Medicare is paid when Airlift Northwest is requested by a medical facility or an emergency response team to fly a critically ill or injured patient to appropriate medical care.

History

Airlift Northwest was founded in 1982 by Dr. Michael Copass and a consortium of hospitals in the Seattle area, including UW Medical Center, Seattle Children’s and Harborview Medical Center, to bring high-quality air medical transportation to an underserved area in Southeast Alaska. Since then, Airlift Northwest has expanded to provide service to a four-state region.

Support Airlift Northwest

If you are interested in supporting Airlift Northwest, please contact UW Medicine Advancement at 206.543.5686 or writemed@uw.edu.