



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New CALSTAR Air Medical Base Now Open in Watsonville

Watsonville, CA – September 24, 2018 – CALSTAR Air Medical Services announces the official opening of its newest emergency air medical transport base in Watsonville, California. The base commenced operations this morning, September 24, and is now providing service to Santa Cruz County and the surrounding communities.

“Over the past three decades, CALSTAR has proudly served the residents and visitors of Santa Cruz County from bases in the surrounding regions,” said Anna Blair, Vice President of Service Delivery for CALSTAR. “From the very beginning, the plan for our expansion into Watsonville and Santa Cruz County was founded not only on continuing that long-standing history of service, but increasing overall support to local EMS and healthcare systems, and offering increased access to vital air medical transport services to patients in need. To see that plan come to life and the base be placed into service this morning was a proud moment.”

EMS Medical Director for Santa Cruz County, Dr. David Ghilarducci, had this to say about the opening of the new Watsonville base, “CALSTAR has served our community well for over three decades, and this additional in-county resource will improve our ability to provide critical emergency medical transport services, both air and ground.”

The new base is staffed by a flight crew consisting of highly trained and experienced pilots, clinicians, and aircraft maintenance technicians. The Airbus EC 135 helicopter operated at this base is medically-configured and equipped with the latest in avionics and safety features. The IFR equipped aircraft also has GPS approach capabilities that will allow transports to and from Dominican Hospital during inclement weather.

CALSTAR operates several additional air medical transport bases along the Pacific Coast – including Santa Clara, Santa Barbara, and Monterey Counties. The close proximity of each of these locations allows for additional air transport coverage for each of these counties – an added benefit to the community.

CALSTAR is a participating provider in the AirMedCare Network (AMCN), the nation’s largest air medical transport membership program. When transported by CALSTAR, AMCN members incur no out of pocket expense for a medically necessary flight. Membership is just \$85 a year for an entire household or \$65 a year for seniors. In addition to covering flight costs for CALSTAR, membership extends to AMCN’s 320 base locations across 38 states.

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About CALSTAR Air Medical Services

Founded in 1983 and headquartered at McClellan Park, Sacramento, CALSTAR provides rapid air medical transport to those who need critical care services. Saving lives, reducing disability and speeding recovery for victims of trauma and illness through rapid transport, quality medical care and education is CALSTAR's mission. CALSTAR employs hundreds of highly trained nurses, paramedics, pilots and aircraft maintenance technicians to provide service to patients using their fleet of medically equipped helicopters and airplanes. CALSTAR is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Services (CAMTS), which is the gold standard for patient care and safety for air medical transport services. For more information, visit www.CALSTAR.org.