

FACTSHEET

AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

- BCEHS air ambulances respond to critical hospital transfer patients as well as emergency 9-1-1 medical calls.
 - About 90 per cent of air ambulance transports are interfacility transfers, from hospital to hospital.
- The BCEHS air ambulance program currently has a dedicated fleet of 15 air ambulances:
 - Vancouver – airplanes (3) and helicopters (2)
 - Nanaimo – helicopter (1)
 - Kamloops – helicopter (1)
 - Kelowna – airplanes (3)
 - Prince George – airplanes (2) and helicopter (1)
 - Prince Rupert – helicopter (1)
 - Fort St John – airplane (1)
- In addition to the 15 dedicated air ambulances, two airplanes were added in October 2021 in Vancouver and Nanaimo on a temporary basis. They are currently planned to be placed until October 2024.
- BCEHS also calls upon about 35 air carriers around the province to provide service as needed.
- There were 8,290 patient transports completed by air resources in 2023-24 including 6,177 patient transports by airplane and 2,113 patient transports by helicopter.
 - In 2023-24, airplane transports accounted for approximately 75 per cent of all air ambulance calls; helicopters were used in approximately 25 per cent of calls.

A breakdown of air ambulance transports in BC (for fiscal year 2023-24) by originating health authority:

- Northern Health **41%**
- Interior Health **25%**
- Vancouver-Coastal **18%**
- Vancouver Island **13%**
- Fraser Health **2 %**
- Out-of-Province **less than 1%**

Background:

Autolaunch: BCEHS can simultaneously dispatch both ground ambulance(s) and an air ambulance helicopter(s) for specific emergency medical responses based on information provided from the scene by 9-1-1 callers.

Night Vision: Six BCEHS air ambulance helicopters, based in Vancouver, Nanaimo, Prince Rupert, Prince George and Kamloops, are equipped with night vision technology.

Critical Care Program: Critical Care Paramedics (highest level of paramedic care, with a focus on air medical response) are deployed from aircraft bases in Prince George, Kelowna, Kamloops, Vancouver and Nanaimo.

- 30-

Contact: BCEHS Communications
Media@bcehs.ca
604.660.6925