

## FACTSHEET

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### 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 16: six air ambulance helicopters and 10 air ambulance planes.

Vancouver: Three planes, two helicopters

Nanaimo: One plane, one helicopter

Kamloops: One helicopter

Kelowna: Three planes

Prince George: Two planes, one helicopter

Prince Rupert: One helicopter

Fort St John: One plane

- In addition to our dedicated air resources, BCEHS calls upon about 35 air carriers around the province to provide service as needed.
- Annually, BCEHS responds to more than 7,300 patients requiring transportation by air ambulance.
  - Airplane transports account for 70 per cent of all air ambulance calls; helicopters are used in 30 per cent of calls.

A breakdown of air ambulance transports in BC (for fiscal 2019/20):

- Northern Health **39%**
- Interior Health **26%**
- Vancouver-Coastal **18%**
- Vancouver Island **14%**
- 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:** Five BCEHS air ambulance helicopters, based in Vancouver, Nanaimo, Prince Rupert 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.

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