

EMS Profile by Chris Postiglione,
Chief Clinical Supervisor

EMS Profile: Austin/Travis County STAR Flight

About us: During its 25 years of service, Austin/Travis County **STAR Flight** has evolved into a nationally recognized air medical program responding to Travis and eighteen surrounding counties. Because the Texas Hill Country presents many unique challenges for EMS and rescue crews and holds distinction as the number one area in the nation for flash flood rescues, the **STAR Flight** mission profile has adapted to meet these specialized needs. Austin/Travis County **STAR Flight** is a 24/7 aerial emergency medical service in Texas, performing highly specialized emergency response services including emergency medical transport, still and swift-water rescue, search and rescue, high angle rescue, fire suppression/aerial reconnaissance and law safety assistance. **STAR Flight** has earned multiple accolades for its efforts in this challenging environment including: Higgins-Langley Swift Water Program Development and Incident Awards; American Eurocopter Vision Zero; Eurocopter Golden Hour; National Association Search and Rescue (NASAR) Award for Valor; Rotor and Wing Helicopter Heroism; and has been named EMS Air Medical Service of the Year by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Number of personnel: **STAR Flight** is a team of eight nurses, eight paramedics, eight pilots and three mechanics. A typical **STAR Flight** medical provider has more than ten years of critical care and/or field experience; none of our pilots have fewer than 5500 hours of PIC turbine time. The program is founded on principles of flexibility and versatility and on expert care in any environment. **STAR Flight** crewmembers are constantly learning and training to improve and expand their skills and knowledge of the varied missions they undertake. As the needs of the community change over the next 25 years, **STAR Flight** is prepared to adapt and serve any place . . . any time . . . anywhere.

Number of Units: **STAR Flight**

	Texas Department of State Health Services	Periodical
	Office of EMS Trauma/Systems MC 1876	Rate Paid
	PO Box 149347	At Austin, Texas
	Austin, Texas 78714-9347	



STAR Flight responded to more than 1800 medical calls in 2010, but also responds to emergencies, such as the fires in Bastrop in September 2011.

rescuers can access a patient directly from one of three EC-145 helicopters via hoist, initiate advanced medical care and package the patient, hoist or short-haul them to an area suitable to land, and then load them into the aircraft for transport directly to the nearest trauma center.

Number of Calls: **STAR Flight** responded to more than 1800 medical calls last year. And in addition to its regular service, **STAR Flight** also participates in additional emergency actions as needed. For example, during the Labor Day holiday weekend in 2011, **STAR Flight** responded to many of the wildfires in and around Austin. As of September 2011, the

program has completed 89 fire missions of 146 total flight hours, 1,563 water drops and total of 203,190 gallons of water assisting local fire fighters in battling the blazes.

Current activities: Beginning in 2006 **STAR Flight** expanded its mission profile through partnerships with pediatric, high risk obstetrical and neonatal specialty transport teams in Austin. **STAR Flight** can now be requested to transport pediatric and neonatal specialty team members to outlying hospitals in the Central Texas region to assist in the care and transportation of sick or expectant mothers, premature babies and children.