



Safe flights whenever and wherever they're needed

Mercy Flights, Medford, Oregon

"Our helicopters want to be in the air within 10 minutes of a call. AviationSentry lets our pilots know what weather is coming, so they can decide if it's safe to go."

Mercy Flights

Established in 1949, Mercy Flights was the first civil air ambulance in the United States. A nonprofit organization serving southern Oregon and northern California, its three aircraft perform an average of 500 flights a year—primarily moving critical care patients and responding to 911 emergencies.

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"To ensure everyone's safety, they need to know the forecast at the scene and the weather en route."

What they were up against.

Mercy Flights' home base in southern Oregon experiences everything from lightning and heavy rains to blinding snowstorms. But the most difficult weather challenge is more mundane: Fog develops quickly in the area and may stop the organization from completing a flight request.

Because Mercy Flights follows FAA regulations, certain weather minimums must be met before takeoff. It needs an extremely reliable aviation weather solution for go / no-go decisions.

What we did to help.

Mercy Flights chose AviationSentry Online® Helicopter Edition from aviation weather leader DTN. AviationSentry is a dedicated internet-based weather system that provides fast, accurate, and comprehensive briefings. Pilots get real-time access to operational weather information so they can protect passengers, staff, and assets.

What the impact was.

Mercy Flights' helicopters need to be in the air within 10 minutes of a call. AviationSentry lets its pilots know what weather is coming, so they can decide if it's safe to go.

Mercy Flights' helicopter pilots needed location-specific weather information to support flights into accident scenes. Because they operate off established flight paths with little to no notice, that information has to be both more robust and more timely than other solutions. DTN's hyper-localized weather information and high-resolution radar helps Mercy Flights' pilots make key decisions at a moment's notice, and they constantly monitor the system to see if it's safe to fly.