



**Alberta's Air Ambulance
Service Delivery
Model Improvements**

**Presented to Mackenzie County Municipality
July 16, 2013**

Medevac and EMS Experts

Sue Conroy, Senior Vice President, Emergency Medical Services and Health Link Alberta

Dr. Mark McKenzie, Air Ambulance Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services

Trevor Maslyk, North Zone Operations Executive Director, Emergency Medical Services

Gord Bates, Director, Air Ambulance and InterFacility Transfer, Emergency Medical Services

Background

- In 2009, EMS transitioned to Alberta Health Services which has enabled improved integration and coordination of ground ambulance, air ambulance & EMS dispatch.
- Fixed-wing contracts expire January 31, 2014 which has given AHS the opportunity to review and improve overall air ambulance services.

Air Ambulance Model Improvements

Alberta Health Services will be implementing a new service delivery model for air ambulance services across the province effective February 1, 2014.

Air Ambulance Model Improvements

- While retaining the desirable and best attributes of the current model, the new model:
 - Realigns resources to improve access for all Albertans
 - Enhances the level of care provided to critical patients
 - Improves ability to coordinate scheduled patient transfers
 - Ensures sustainability into the future

Current Model

- 12 medevac planes available 24/7 however spend less than a third of their time responding to calls.
- 80 per cent of patients flown by air ambulance are for scheduled admissions, specialist appointments or for admission to a higher level of care – not emergencies.

Current Model

- Currently **none** of our advanced life support aircraft are **dedicated** to emergency response, meaning medevac planes are not always available for emergency response.
- **Three** STARS helicopters are the only aircraft providing emergency critical care medevac transport.

New Service Delivery Model

- The new model includes **four** critical care planes, **three** critical care helicopters and **seven** advanced life support planes.
- Resources are being redistributed to better meet patient needs across the province.
- Four medevac planes will be relocated and one taken out of service.
 - Most of the scheduled transfers done by the relocated aircraft are for patients located in a community from other than where the plane is based.

New Service Delivery Model

- **Four** new critical care medevac planes are being added to provide more Albertans with 24/7 access to the highest level of medevac transport, based in
 - Fort McMurray
 - Grande Prairie
 - Peace River
 - Medicine Hat

New Service Delivery Model

- Increases access to dedicated critical care transport teams for 24/7 emergency response for all Albertans.
- Greatly enhances ability to coordinate scheduled patient transfers with advanced life support aircraft to get patients where they need to be, on time.
- Enhances efficiency and sustainability.

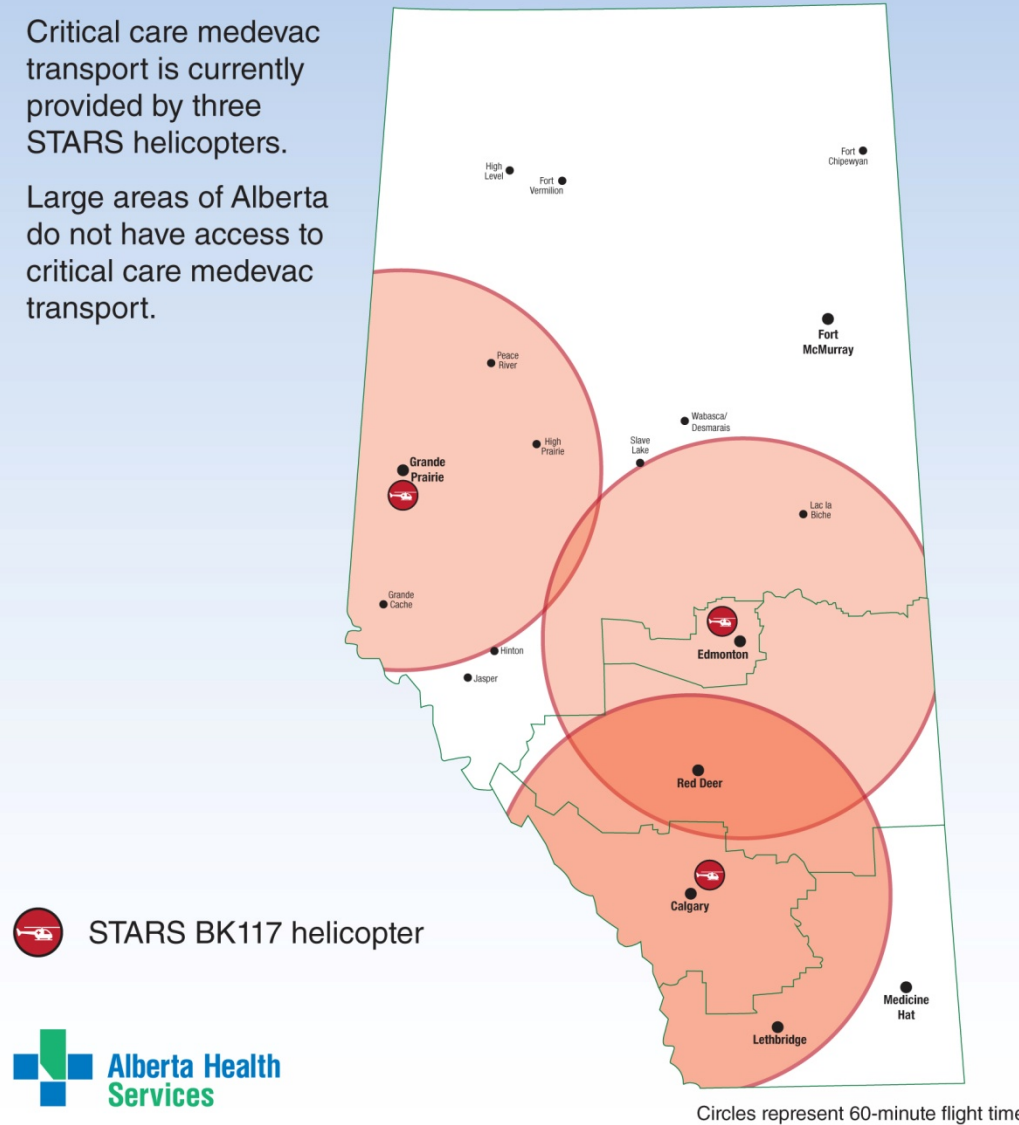
Critical Care Teams

- **Critical care teams not only fly patients to an intensive care unit, they bring critical care to patients.**
 - Experienced medical crews
 - Enhanced training
 - Specialized equipment
 - Complex medications
 - Evidenced-based outcomes

Current Critical Care Medevac Coverage

Critical care medevac transport is currently provided by three STARS helicopters.




Large areas of Alberta do not have access to critical care medevac transport.

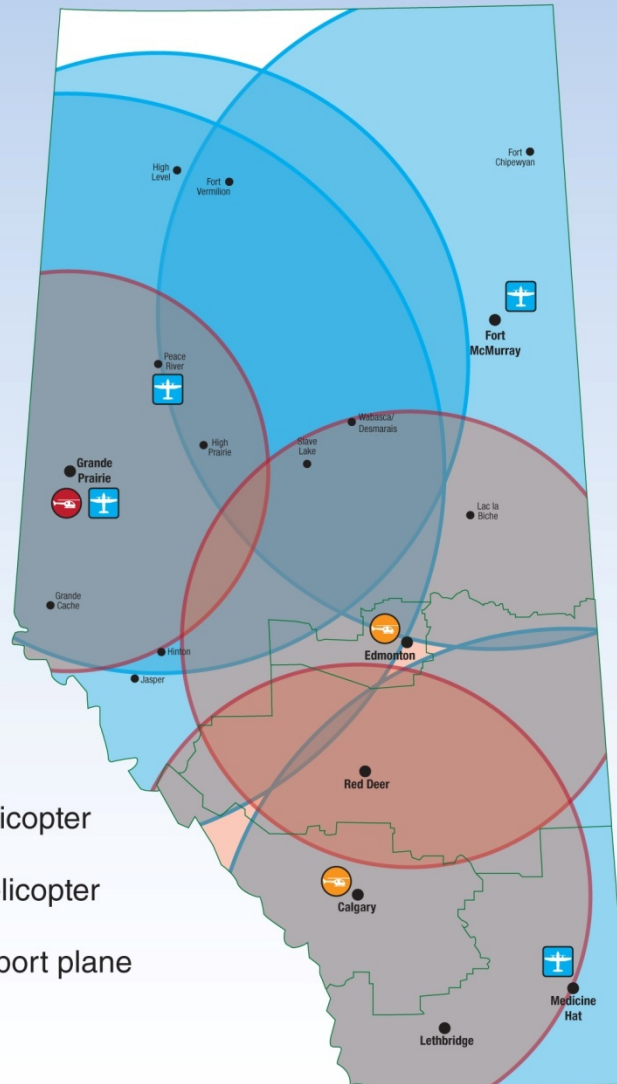


Future Critical Care Medevac Coverage

Critical care medevac transport will be provided by four new Alberta Health Services critical care planes, in addition to three STARS helicopters.

That means equitable access for Albertans and greater options for critical care medevac transport.

-  STARS BK117 helicopter
-  STARS AW139 helicopter
-  Critical care transport plane



Circles represent 60-minute flight time

Fort Vermilion-Based Plane

- In 2011/12, the Fort Vermilion-based plane transported **513** patients:
 - 292 were responses to other communities or 57 per cent of flights, for example:
 - Grande Prairie: 120
 - High Level: 56
 - La Crete: 17
 - Peace River: 10

Fort Vermilion Patients

- In 2011/12, **280** patients were transported from Fort Vermilion:
 - 221 were flown by the Fort Vermilion-based plane
 - 18 were emergent/critical patients
 - 203 were scheduled transfers

First Nations

- Air ambulance support to the Little Red River Cree area is currently coordinated and provided through Health Canada arrangements.
- AHS air ambulance does not typically provide air ambulance services directly to this area – only when Health Canada’s arrangements are unavailable. When AHS is used, patients are transported to the usual referral hospital including Fort Vermilion.

Provincial System

- While aircraft will be relocated, patient care will not be compromised.
- All medevac aircraft are used as provincial resources to create **ONE** medevac system, serving **ALL** Albertans.
 - Dedicated resources for emergencies
 - Coordinated flights for scheduled transfers
- The goal of air ambulance transport is to get the patient to the right place, in the right amount of time, with the right transport team – safely.

Our Commitment

- To ensure ongoing patient safety, AHS will continue to monitor and review patient care and report air ambulance data publicly.
- Residents of Fort Vermilion and the surrounding area can be confident they will continue to have access to rapid, reliable and safe emergency care.