



In the aftermath of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the city of Watsonville as well as a large portion of Santa Cruz County were completely isolated by landslides and road closures.

Responding to a massive and immediate need to supply Watsonville ... which initially could only be accomplished by air ... local aviation enthusiasts from several bay area airports (including Reid-Hillview) organized an ad hoc airlift relief operation that supplemented the ongoing government effort. This operation ultimately conducted over 1000 separate flights and delivered over a half million pounds of badly need supplies.

Over the years that followed, a small number of airport pilot groups throughout the state established standing airlift relief operations in anticipation of a similar need during a future disaster. These operations ... referred to as DART (Disaster Airlift Response Team) Operators ... have standardized operational procedures and practice regularly.

Reid-Hillview is in the process of joining this elite group. Our DART organizing effort is being led by CAAPSO (Community and Airport Partnership for Safe Operations) and the Santa Clara Valley 99s. We are looking for motivated volunteers ... both pilots and non pilots ... to help us move forward.

Want to know more? Please contact ...

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