



For Immediate Release:
For More Information:

2/28/14
CareFlite: James C. Swartz (682) 429-0700

CareFlite Press Release



CareFlite lands in Whitney, Texas



CareFlite's crew and support personnel with an Agusta 109 on the helipad at Lake Whitney Medical Center on the first day of operations 2/28/14.

CareFlite's new Hill County base opened on schedule Friday February 28th at Lake Whitney Medical Center in Whitney, Texas. From this location, CareFlite's Agusta 109 twin engine helicopter will provide the shortest time to definitive care for all patients located in Hill and Bosque Counties. The Level 2 Trauma Center at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in Waco is just a 15 minute flight on an Agusta 109 helicopter. The Agusta 109 is the fastest medical helicopter in the region with a maximum cruise speed of 173 miles per hour. (The Bell 206 has a maximum cruise speed of 129 miles per hour.) With a maximum cruise speed 34% faster, CareFlite will set the standard in Hill, McLennan and Bosque counties for air medical services. The base is staffed 24/7 with a pilot holding an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate as well as a Flight Nurse and a Flight Paramedic. The clinical crew will be available to help in the Lake Whitney Medical Center Emergency Department whenever requested by the ED staff.

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CareFlite encourages those who are interested to visit with CareFlite's crew during the day provided the helicopter is on the helipad. For your safety, do not enter onto the helipad unless escorted by a CareFlite Crew member.

Known for the quality of its medical care in the air and on its ground ambulances, patients will arrive at definitive care more quickly. Dr. Simonson, CareFlite's Medical Director, is board certified in Emergency Medicine and directs an urban Trauma Center as well as CareFlite's medical practice. By having the same medical direction for air and ground service, patients receive a smooth transition when transport by air is needed. All CareFlite air clinical personnel are Certified Flight Paramedics or Certified Flight Registered Nurses. In addition, all Flight Nurses are also Paramedics.

This new base will create twelve new jobs in Hill County in addition to the current thirty employees currently employed on CareFlite's ground ambulance service.

CareFlite's Sponsors include Baylor Health Care which recently merged with Scott and White to create Baylor Scott and White Health Care. Hillcrest Medical Center in Waco is part of the Baylor Scott and White system. CareFlite's other Sponsors are JPS Health Network, Methodist Health System, Parkland Health and Hospital and Texas Health Resources. Those entities, like CareFlite, are not for profit Texas entities committed to patient care.

About CareFlite

Established in 1979, CareFlite is the oldest joint use air medical transportation service in the nation. It is the only, fully-integrated medical transport company serving North Texas. It operates the only air medical helicopters based in Dallas County and in Fort Worth.

CareFlite's helicopter EMS responds to requests from hospitals, fire departments, EMS agencies and law enforcement within a service area of more than 100 counties in a 150-mile radius of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex containing more than 5.8 million people. CareFlite currently has nine (9) helicopters in its fleet including four new, state of the art, Bell 407GX's delivered this year.

CareFlite operates fixed wing air ambulance within a 500 mile radius of the DFW Airport.

In addition to CareFlite's ground ambulance/911 EMS service in SE Dallas County, Balch Springs, Ellis County ESD #5, Hill County ESD #2 and Johnson County, other ground ambulance services are offered in Collin, Denton, Dallas, Erath, Palo Pinto, Parker and Tarrant Counties.

CareFlite's membership program protects families against out of pocket costs for air and/or ground ambulance transports operated by CareFlite, Air Life in San Antonio and Halo Flight in Corpus Christi. More than 200,000 people in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma are Members of CareFlite.

CareFlite has transported over 700,000 patients since its founding in 1979.

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Other services include an outstanding continuing education program for Nurses, Paramedics and EMT's at CareFlite's new state of the art Mabee EMS Training Center in Grand Prairie. The company also sponsors the annual CareFlite Emergency Care Update Conference at the Arlington Convention Center (scheduled for May 19 & 20, 2014). First held in 1982, the ECU is believed to be the oldest first responder conference in the United States. It is open to first responders and health care professionals.

CareFlite also provides education, training and state required oversight for fire departments wishing to become or maintain First Responder Organization (FRO) status.

CareFlite will celebrate its 35th anniversary on May 19, 2014 at the Arlington Convention Center. The lunch and celebration are free and open to the public. CareFlite also offers a medical service bicycle team and a mounted team for community events.

CareFlite, a 501(c)3 non-profit, is sponsored by Baylor Healthcare, JPS Health Network, Methodist Health System, Parkland Health and Hospital and Texas Health Resources.

For more information, visit www.careflite.org

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