



For Immediate Release

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Sonoma County Fire District and REACH Air Medical Services Announce New Partnership

*Partnership Will Bring Fire Reconnaissance & Fire Suppression,
Search & Rescue, Advanced Life Support Air Medical Capabilities*

(SANTA ROSA, Calif.) — Sonoma County Fire District, in partnership with REACH Air Medical Services, announced today that it is expanding its capabilities to enhance its delivery of Advanced Life support medical services and to further combat the threat of wildfire in the North Bay. The new public-private agreement is for the staffing and operation of one public safety helicopter, an Airbus H-135, which will enable the fire district to deliver aerial fire reconnaissance and fire suppression, search and rescue, and ICU-level air medical transport capabilities to Sonoma County and the surrounding areas.

"The Sonoma County Fire District's mission is to compassionately care for the safety of our communities and our visitors through progressive professional emergency preparedness and response", said Mark Heine, Fire Chief for the Sonoma County Fire District. "Our partnership with REACH Air Medical Services brings together two strong organizations committed to enhancing the delivery of emergency medical services, rescue services, and critical aerial firefighting services to enhance the safety of our communities from the threat of wildfires in Sonoma County".

"Dr. John L. McDonald founded REACH in Santa Rosa in 1987 because he believed that an air ambulance presence in Sonoma County would greatly benefit the community," said Sean Russel, Pacific Region President for REACH parent company, Global Medical Response. "Now 34 years later, his work is being transformed into something even greater - a partnership that will deliver life-saving ICU-level care, improve public safety and protect both property and the environment. We are incredibly pleased to be partnering with the Sonoma County Fire District to deliver these services to a community that we have proudly served for more than three decades."

The new joint operation, which is set to go live in early 2022, will be strategically stationed at the Sonoma County Airport. The aircraft will be operated by REACH's highly trained and experienced pilots, flight nurses and flight paramedics and maintained by their on-site aviation maintenance technicians. The Fire

District will provide administrative support and fire training and will lead the integration of the aircraft into current fire district operations county-wide.

The aircraft will be branded Sonoma County Fire District and will come equipped with forward-looking infrared technology, a light-weight firefighting bucket, ICU-level medical equipment, and advanced avionics and safety features. The Airbus H-135 is a lightweight, twin-engine aircraft designed to operate in high altitude and hot conditions. Its smaller size makes it versatile for aerial firefighting, search and rescue and air medical operations.

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About REACH Air Medical Services

REACH Air Medical Services, headquartered in Sacramento, CA, provides critical care air and ground transport service to communities throughout California, Oregon, Nevada, Alaska, Texas, Colorado and Hawaii. REACH employs hundreds of highly trained nurses, paramedics, pilots and aircraft maintenance technicians to provide service to patients using their fleet of medically equipped helicopters, airplanes and ground ambulances. REACH is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS), which is the gold standard for patient care and safety in the medical transport industry. For more information, visit www.REACHAir.com.

REACH is part of the Global Medical Response family. Global Medical Response, Inc. is the industry-leading air, ground, specialty and residential fire services, and managed medical transportation organization. With more than 38,000 employees, GMR delivers compassionate, quality medical care, primarily in the areas of emergency and patient relocation services in the United States and around the world. For more information, visit www.globalmedicalresponse.com.

About the Sonoma County Fire District

The Sonoma County Fire District was formed in 2019 as the result of a consolidation between the Windsor Fire Protection District, Rincon Valley Fire Protection District, Bennett Valley Fire Protection District, and the Mountain Volunteer Fire Department. We currently serve an area of more than 200 square miles and a population of more than 75,000 responding to more than 10,000 emergency calls for service annually.

In 2020 and 2021, SCFD added the Russian River Fire Protection District and the Forestville Fire Protection District to our fire family.

Our agency serves the Town of Windsor, Larkfield, Wikiup, Mark West, Mountain, Middle Rincon, Bennett Valley, Bellevue, Graton Casino, Fulton, Forestville, Guerneville, Rio Nido and the surrounding unincorporated areas.

The men and women of the Sonoma County Fire District serve our communities with pride, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, as they have done for so many years.

We are a modern “all risk”; fire district, meaning we will respond to the needs of the community, regardless of the nature of the incident and begin the process of solving the problem to lead to a positive outcome.