

LifeFlight's vision for Maine is a place where every person, in every community, has access to critical care and medical transport when they need it.



Over the past 23 years, LifeFlight has cared for 33,000 patients, and the need for our service continues to grow. **The reach and relevance of LifeFlight's mission are more important now than ever before.** We safely care for those who are critically ill with COVID-19, while also transporting patients of all ages—from premature infants and critically injured children, to adults and seniors who need specialty care. The calls for help come from all points in Maine—from the mountains to the lakes and coastal islands, from highways, trails, main streets, and, importantly, from hospital to hospital.

Our iconic helicopters provide far more than just critical care transport. For LifeFlight patients, every minute matters. Their chances of survival and quality of life after a traumatic event depends on our ability to safely traverse Maine's vast expanse, rugged terrain, and challenging weather. Getting a patient quickly into the care of a LifeFlight crew gives them the best chance to “overcome the geography of time.” **We make second chances possible.**

LifeFlight helicopters, airplane, and specialty ground ambulances are equipped as fully functioning mobile intensive care units, **bringing advanced skills, medical technology, pharmacy, blood, and more—directly to a patient's side.**

LifeFlight Quick Facts

- ▶ LifeFlight plays a unique and essential role within “the chain of survival” by caring for and transporting Maine’s critically ill and injured patients. In 2021, LifeFlight transported **2,300 patients** from **136 communities**, islands, and unorganized townships—averaging **1 patient every 4 hours**.
- ▶ LifeFlight deploys medical teams from bases in **Sanford, Lewiston, and Bangor**, using three helicopters, a fixed wing airplane, rapid response vehicles, and specialized ground ambulances. These teams care for Maine 24/7/365, partnering with local EMS, Fire/Rescue, and hospital providers.
- ▶ Approximately **87% of patients are transported from community hospitals** to tertiary hospitals and trauma centers, while **13% are transported directly from the scene of an emergency** - roadsides, woods, mountains, and islands.
- ▶ **LifeFlight transports patients of all ages needing specialized care beyond what can be provided by local hospitals**—including premature infants, cardiac and stroke patients, patients with complex traumatic injury, sepsis, burns, or with obstetric complications or needing an organ transplant.
- ▶ LifeFlight uses the **strictest medical utilization criteria** in the country to make sure all flights are medically necessary.
- ▶ While most patients are transported to a major medical center in Maine, **12% of patients are taken to Boston and beyond for specialized care not available in state.** Because of the pandemic, the lack of available in-state resources has resulted in longer flights to find available beds and patient care.
- ▶ LifeFlight operates similarly to a hospital emergency department, **caring for all patients regardless of their ability to pay.** Patient fees cover operational expenses, but **we rely on donors who make gifts to the LifeFlight Foundation** to support the purchase of aircraft, medical equipment, aviation infrastructure enhancements, and provide education and training for the LifeFlight crew and our partners across the state.

