

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**City of Upland, Upland Fire and REACH Air Medical Services
Open Emergency Air Transport Base**

Upland, CA /March 1, 2010 – The City of Upland, Upland Fire Department (Upland Fire) and REACH Air Medical Services (REACH) announce the opening today of a 24/7 helicopter emergency air medical services base, located at Cable Airport in Upland.

The public/private partnership will immediately begin providing life-saving 24/7 emergency helicopter service to San Bernardino County and surrounding areas as part of the county's system of air ambulances. REACH provides the helicopter, pilots and maintenance. Upland Fire provides certified and trained flight nurses and flight paramedics. It will be the 11th permitted helicopter in the county responding to 911 scene calls and hospital interfacility transports of critically ill and/or injured patients.

In November 2009, San Bernardino County approved the city's request for a permit to operate the air ambulance with the assistance and cooperation of Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA). "The county is divided into flight dispatch zones and the air ambulance closest to the incident in the zone is first priority," said Virginia Hastings, executive director of ICEMA.

"Upland Fire is pleased to establish this partnership with REACH. This unique and complementary partnership will improve the level of emergency patient care in San Bernardino and beyond," said Upland Fire Chief Michael Antonucci. "For more than 20 years, REACH has enjoyed tremendous success in providing California, Oregon and Texas communities with quality emergency patient transport, and we are pleased to partner with them to further extend their outstanding service to our region." REACH also has Southern California bases of operation in El Centro, Thermal and Lancaster.

Patients transported by Upland Fire/REACH will be flown in a new, state-of-the-art Eurocopter EC-135 helicopter, capable of airspeeds of 150 miles per hour, operating under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), equipped with night vision goggles (NVGs) to enhance safety of nighttime operations, as well as helicopter-specific terrain awareness equipment.

REACH began providing air ambulance services from a single base of operations in Northern California in 1987. Since then, REACH has established bases throughout California, Oregon and Texas.

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REACH Air Medical Services, headquartered in Santa Rosa, California, supports operations in Concord, El Centro, Lakeport, Lancaster, Marysville, Redding, Sacramento, Stockton, Thermal, Upland and Santa Rosa, California as well as Corvallis, Oregon and San Antonio, Texas. REACH provides air medical transport services utilizing rotor- (helicopter) and fixed-wing (airplane) aircraft regionally and nationally and has performed more than 50,000 air ambulance missions since its inception in 1987. REACH offers a membership program, REACH for Life; a primary benefit of membership is the guarantee of no out-of-pocket expenses when members are transported by REACH within the areas served. REACH has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Services (CAMTS) since 1998.

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