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# Air Ambulance Flies Through Rainstorm To Get Patient

POSTED: 3:57 pm CDT April 26, 2011  
UPDATED: 5:54 pm CDT April 26, 2011

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**DES MOINES, Iowa** -- Mercy Medical Center officials said their air ambulance helicopter used new flight technology Tuesday to make a flight in poor weather conditions.

The Wide Area Augmentation System assisted the pilot in flying during rainy conditions and reduced visibility of 500 feet. The WAAS is the latest in air navigation technology, officials said.

The Mercy One air ambulance's mission was to take a 15-year-old patient hurt in a rollover crash from the Chariton airport to Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Mercy One is Iowa's only medical helicopter equipped with WAAS technology and pilots certified by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mercy officials said the new technology will allow Mercy One to safely fly more missions, which could help save lives.

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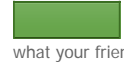


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[Wintermute \[Profile\]](#) | Apr. 27, 2011 8:38am CST | [Inappropriate](#)

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I saw this team practicing out north of the City a few months back. It was a very windy day, and I was really impressed with how well the pilot handled that machine. Those pilots and crews are all hero's, and we shouldn't take them for granted.

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Safety is a good thing. Hopefully all air ambulances will have this technology soon.

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