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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Port Angeles, WA – On Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at their regularly scheduled weekly board meeting the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners unanimously adopted the Disaster Airlift Response Plan or DARP as an appendix to the county's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Clallam County is historic in Washington State as this is the only county to organize a Disaster Airlift Response Team (DART) as a model for how general aviation pilots can work with emergency planners to be that critical difference when such a resource is needed.

Alan Barnard, a local pilot, was interviewed by Seaplane Magazine explains how the project got started. "As Aviation Coordinator for Clallam County Emergency Management, I started over ten years ago designing my own volunteer pilot's disaster response because there were none that I could find around the county from which to pull information.... Then early in 2017 my local Emergency Management Program Manager sent me an email telling me of the California Pilots Association (<https://calpilots.org/>). A sample of the DART/DARP program from California was provided to her by Sky Terry from EVAC. Bingo! That was what I needed and I was able to adapt their program so long as we agreed to assist neighboring jurisdictions in time of need." The full article can be found at: <http://seaplanemagazine.com/2018/01/30/interview-with-leader-of-first-dart-in-washington-state/>

The organization will use private pilots and aircraft to assist in an emergency or disaster situation to provide needed resources and transport when conventional means are lacking or unavailable. By having official affiliation with Clallam County, they will be able to operate in closed airspace to provide disaster relief services

"Our heartfelt thanks to everyone working to make this possible and to the pilots who are willing to serve their fellow citizens," says Undersheriff Ron Cameron.

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