

Oregon Disaster Airlift Response Team (ODART) Aviation Exercise – Whale Run 2026

JUNE 13-14, 2026. ODART is inviting GA pilots to join its 5th annual exercise which simulates a volunteer response to a Cascadia Subduction Zone megathrust catastrophe along the Oregon coast. It will be conducted over a single weekend.

Saturday, June 13: Rapid damage assessment (windshield survey) flights, conducted by fixed-wing volunteer GA aircraft, will follow predefined circuits along highway routes to document observations of (simulated) infrastructure damage. Small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) will also be deployed to examine infrastructure at locations GA aircraft are unable to operate. The damage reports collected will be used to plan and schedule the relief flights the following day.

Sunday, June 14: Fixed-wing, float plane, and rotor wing aircraft will be utilized by volunteers to airlift emergency supplies from staging airports to “islanded” communities. Depending on the type of cargo requested, recipients are typically emergency management agencies, tribal nations, healthcare providers, and community food banks. For exercise safety, aircraft takeoff times and landing times are all meticulously tracked by volunteer amateur radio operators and reported back to flight dispatchers.

ODART volunteer opportunities and signup procedures can be found on the <https://www.odart.org> website. To learn more the history of GA organizations helping their communities, please see the excellent article in the November 2024 edition of OPA’s Propwash magazine.



**An Aviation
Resource which
can assist
Your
Community**

<https://www.odart.org>



Suddenly, a disaster or large emergency strikes your community! Normal travel and supply routes are impassable. In emergency management terminology, your community is now an island. However,

- Some community members need shelter,
- Medical supplies need replenishment, and
- Everyone is short of food after the shelves in stores and food banks are quickly emptied.

Yes, federal help may eventually arrive, but how can local disaster needs be met until those supplies become available? In the interim, what if the needed food, temporary shelters, and urgent medical supplies could be flown to you by general aviation volunteers?

**Assisting communities like yours in times of need
is what ODART is all about!**