

Small contribution with a big impact

As a Rega patron, you know that Rega brings professional emergency assistance by air to people in distress. To you, too, if some day you need it. Around the clock, in Switzerland and worldwide. This is possible thanks to your financial support. But perhaps you do not know that with your annual patronage contribution, you – along with 3.2 million other patrons – do so much more for Switzerland.

High-tech medicine learns to fly

As Switzerland's only air-rescue organisation, Rega is in a position to carry out highly complex intensive-care patient transports. For example, it flies premature or newborn babies in its own mobile incubator from one hospital to another, or transports patients attached to a heart-lung machine. The fact that the helicopters and jets are able to carry this high-tech medical apparatus on board in the first place is all thanks to Rega's own team of engineers.

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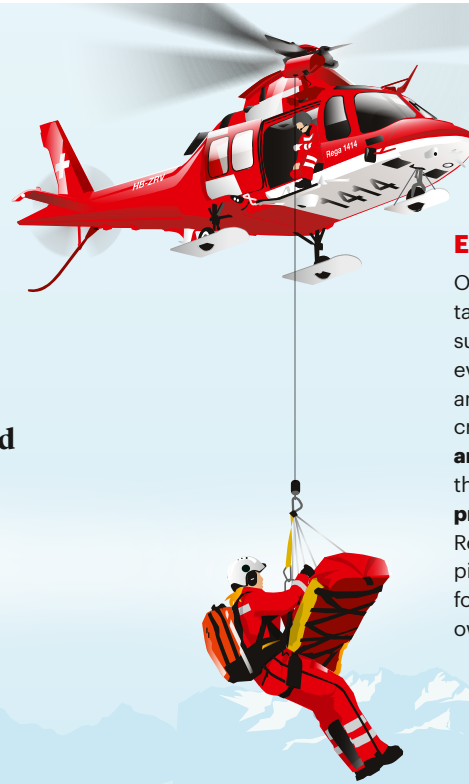


Ensuring a safe landing

Swift, gentle transport by helicopter is no use if it cannot land safely at the hospital – both during the day and at night. Rega actively promotes safe and modern hospital helipads by advising and supporting Swiss hospitals in relation to corresponding infrastructure projects.

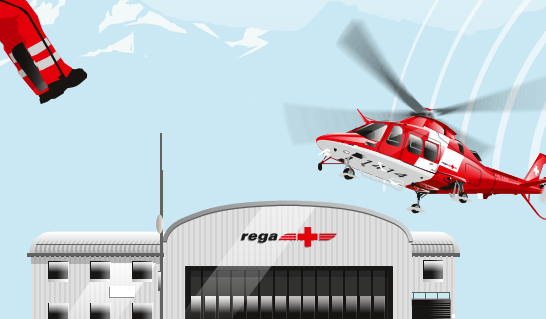
Standing by around the clock

In spite of the high standby costs, Rega is ready for action both day and night: its Operations Centre staff and its crews are in action 24/7. A pilot, paramedic and emergency flight physician are on standby at each of Rega's helicopter bases. For missions abroad, five jet crews are on call every day. As a result, we are ready to help at all times.



Even in difficult situations

Our helicopter crews are also ready to take on highly challenging missions – such as at night, using the rescue hoist, evacuations from mountain cableways, and rescues from avalanches and glacier crevasses. For this, special apparatus and equipment are necessary – but also the appropriate training and regular practice exercises. Among other things, Rega operates a flight school, where its pilots and paramedics are trained to perform such demanding tasks, as well as its own helicopter flight simulator.



Based throughout Switzerland

Our 12 helicopter bases are not just located where a large number of missions are to be expected, but are spread all over the country (see article on page 16). Even in peripheral areas – such as the Engadin or Ticino – our crews are on standby around the clock. Thus Rega provides part of the basic medical care in Switzerland – without an official mandate from the government or any state subsidies.

Major operations abroad

In the event of Swiss nationals finding themselves in a major emergency situation abroad – such as after a coach accident or natural disaster – Rega coordinates the mission on location and arranges the medical care and repatriation of the patients. In this way, Rega acts as a bridge back home.



Emergency radio channel for everyone

All of our missions are coordinated from Rega's Operations Centre. To enable the mission coordinators to remain in contact with the helicopters, Rega operates its own nationwide radio network comprising 42 stations. This also includes an emergency channel, which is monitored by the Operations Centre and can be used by anyone to raise the alarm.

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Terrestrial rescue

If the Rega crews need help in rough terrain or if poor visibility renders rescue by air impossible, the mountain rescuers from the Swiss Alpine Club SAC come to their aid. These rescue specialists belong to Alpine Rescue Switzerland – a foundation that is jointly supported by Rega and the SAC. All of the missions are coordinated by Rega's Operations Centre.



Supporting Swiss mountain farmers

Every year, Rega organises around 1,200 missions on behalf of mountain farmers in Switzerland to recover injured, trapped or dead livestock from rough terrain. It has set up a special telephone number for these flights and commissions commercial helicopter firms to perform them. This service is included in the Rega Family patronage.



More than you think: In this video clip, you can find out what we can do in Switzerland thanks to your support. www.impact.rega.ch

