

How is SNAM notified?

If the need of utilising SNAM should arise, there is a preparedness to take care of the entire chain from enquiry to executed mission. The Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre, ARCC, which is manned round the clock, receives enquiries. ARCC on its part arranges engagement with the Swedish Transport Agency's Point of Contact. The process can be as follows:



In order for a mission to be started, there must be a financier and the mission shall naturally be possible to carry out both medically and operationally with reference to aviation.



Who are involved in the SNAM system?

The Swedish Transport Agency, in accordance with its instructions from the Government, is responsible for "maintaining readiness in order to, in consultation with the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB, and the National Swedish Board of Health and Welfare, decide on and carry out airborne patient transport", i.e. SNAM. The Västerbotten County Council, VLL, trains and is responsible for the medical personnel on board. SAS in accordance with an agreement is responsible for the flights. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency furnishes the mission coordinator.



What does the mission entail?

When the decision on an air medevac is made, the plane which shall be used is flown to Arlanda for remodelling. The medical personnel are activated and transported to Arlanda. A mission coordinator arrives. A staff is also formed at a central management location at Arlanda. Comprising the staff is the Swedish Transport Agency, which leads the effort, and representatives for care providers (VLL) and the airline (SAS).

When the plane is ready, medicine and other medical care material are loaded and personnel board the plane. Depending on how the flight looks, which patients will be transported and where, contacts with those concerned are established, for example hospitals, embassies and other authorities. The staff at Arlanda works as a hub during the mission.

When required a reconnaissance team can be sent out to the site where the patients are to be picked up. The purpose is to clarify the patients' status and the possibility to be transported as well as prepare the arrival of the SNAM plane, so that the time the plane remains on the ground is minimised.

The airplane has a range of approx. 3000 km without intermediate landings, but can of course fly longer stretches with stopping for refuelling, change of pilots, etc.

The stretchers can be lifted out of the plane and transported to the hospital to pick up and drop off patients. The intensive care stretchers have batteries as well as oxygen for such transports.



What is SNAM?

If a major accident or disaster should occur and the community's normal resources for patient transport do not suffice, the Swedish National Air Medevac, SNAM, is a resource.

SNAM can be used nationally as well as internationally, civil and military. It can involve a county council in a part of Sweden which in the event of a major accident needs to transfer patients to another county council. It can also be patients who need to be flown from a country which has been hard hit by a disaster or terror attack. Such occurred in December 2008, when SNAM transported wounded Brits and Spaniards after the terror attack in Bombay to Great Britain for continued medical care. SNAM is used to transport stable patients who have received treatment in hospitals but need to be moved. It is hence no air ambulance for acute departures.

The responsibility of administrating SNAM and its readiness efforts lies with the Swedish Transport Agency.



A flying hospital

During a SNAM response a regular passenger airplane is used, a Boeing 737-800. The airplane is built and equipped with:

- Six intensive care units for those seriously injured
- Six regular stretchers for those mildly injured
- Approx. 20 seats for ambulatory patients and relatives

On board the plane there are specially-trained, experienced personnel:

- Eleven nurses
- Nine doctors
- One mission coordinator (representing the Swedish Transport Agency on board)
- One turn around coordinator
- One medical technician
- One flight technician
- Air crew



Contact

Enquiries on a mission with the Swedish National Air Medevac are directed to Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre, tel. 031-64 80 60.

Other questions about SNAM are forwarded to the Swedish Transport Agency directly, 0771-503 503.

The Swedish National Air Medevac

SNAM

A communal resource in times of major accidents or disasters when regular patient transport is not enough

