

## IX. Assistance Facilities

---

*Section IX details the facilities available for rendering assistance in Antarctica, including medical, transport services and emergency shelters.*

### **McMurdo Station**

#### **Medical Facilities**

During the winter-over period there is a four-bed medical and dental facility with 1 doctor, 1 Physician Assistant, and a Physical Therapist. These personnel are augmented with up to 12 Emergency Medical Technicians assigned to the Fire Department. During the summer this facility is staffed with 2 civilian Physicians, 1 ANG Physician, 1 Physicians' Assistant or Nurse Practitioner, 1 Dentist, 1 Radiographic Technician, 1 Laboratory Technician, 1 Physical Therapist, and 2 Nurses. These personnel are augmented with up to 40 Emergency Medical Technicians assigned to the Fire Department. There is limited x-ray and medical lab capability on station. Telemedicine capabilities are available with specialist consultation services through the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas.

#### **Transport Services**

From October to mid-February, airlift from McMurdo to Christchurch via C-17 and C-130 aircraft is available. Limited airlift within the continent during this period is via ski-equipped LC-130 or Twin Otter aircraft. Transport via surface may be available (see Section II for dates available).

## **Available Shelter**

Over 90 covered structures are available at McMurdo Station.

# **Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station**

## **Medical Facilities**

One civilian doctor and one Physician Assistant are on-station at South Pole year round. There is limited x-ray and medical lab capability on station. Telemedicine capabilities are available with specialist consultation services through the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas, hours subject to satellite availability.

## **Transport Services**

LC-130 aircraft are available only on-call from McMurdo Station from November to mid-February.

## **Available Shelter**

South Pole Station consists of a large elevated structure, of which several wings currently are operational. Demolition of older facilities housed under a large geodesic dome have begun, and these are no longer available for use.

From November through mid-February, additional seasonal-use buildings and tent structures are available.

## **Palmer Station**

### **Medical Facilities**

One civilian doctor is assigned to Palmer Station year round. There is limited x-ray and medical lab capability on station. Telemedicine capabilities are available with specialist consultation services through the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston Texas.

### **Transport Services**

The R/V *Lawrence M. Gould* is the primary means of transport to and from Palmer Station. In extreme circumstances, Twin Otter landings are possible on the glacier behind the station.

### **Available Shelter**

Two buildings comprise the available shelter at Palmer Station.

## **Marble Point Camp**

### **Medical Facilities**

None

### **Transport Services**

Helicopter support from McMurdo Station is available (weather dependent).

### **Available Shelter**

Three structures comprise Marble Point Camp with two structures for berthing up to six persons, and one that houses a generator and workshop.