

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 all 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.