

# High Stakes. Harsh Terrain. Zero Margin for Error.

Fort Irwin Emergency Response  
Akima Intra-Data Fire and Emergency Services

## The Situation

A convoy of military fuel tankers collided at Fort Irwin in Barstow, California, injuring nine soldiers, trapping one, and leaking fuel which created the immediate threat of fire. Additionally, high winds made an air evacuation impossible. A rapid, coordinated response was essential to save lives and manage the situation.

## The Response

The Akima Intra-Data (AID) Fire and Emergency Services team including the fire captains arrived on scene at Fort Irwin within minutes. They quickly launched a high-stakes technical rescue using the Jaws of Life to free the trapped soldier while triaging the injured and containing the fuel hazard. Partnering with Army medics, the team used on- and off-road tactical ambulances to reach an exchange point for trauma center transport — demonstrating the precision and expertise required in remote, high-risk environments.

## Why It Matters

Fort Irwin spans over 1,000 square miles of desert terrain and supports some of the Army's most advanced training exercises. Emergency services here require 24/7/365 readiness, deep technical capability, and the ability to operate independently in complex scenarios.

The AID team — consisting of over 50 nationally certified professionals including nine paramedics — covers three fire stations and a medevac helipad, ensuring uninterrupted support across a vast and demanding landscape. Many have decades of experience at Fort Irwin, offering institutional knowledge that directly enhances response time and effectiveness.



Their responsibilities also include protecting the base's residential community. In one recent incident, after an AID dispatcher answered a 9-1-1 call, 12 AID firefighters immediately responded to a housing fire and extinguished it within 16 minutes — preventing injuries and limiting property damage.

## The Akima Advantage

Akima provides fire and emergency services through the Army's Directorate of Emergency Services (DES). With proven performance, trusted personnel, and full-spectrum capabilities, we deliver operational excellence where it matters most. We are proud to support this mission and to stand ready at any post, base, or installation across the country.

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