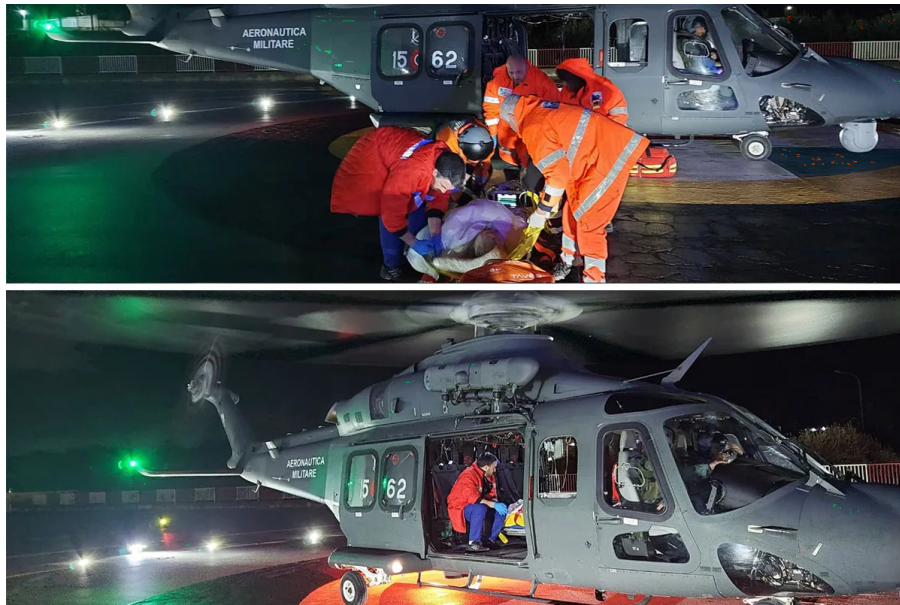




Race against time in Ischia: lifesaving night air rescue by the 15° Stormo with an HH-139B helicopter

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In the late evening of **February 4, 2026**, an **HH-139B** helicopter of the **Italian Air Force** carried out an **emergency medical transport** from the island of **Ischia** to **Pozzuoli**, enabling the immediate hospitalization of a man in **imminent danger of life**.

The operation was conducted by a crew from the **85° Centro SAR** of the **15° Stormo**, based at the military airport of **Pratica di Mare (Rome)**, one of the main national hubs for air search and rescue capability.

Takeoff on order from the Rescue Coordination Center

The takeoff order was given by the **Rescue Coordination Center (RCC)** of the Aerospace Operations Command in Poggio Renatico, at the request of the **Prefecture - UTG of Naples**.

The HH-139B helicopter took off at **20:35**, heading towards the Campania island where it **embarked the patient**, along with a **doctor and a nurse**, ensuring medical assistance during the flight to the **Santa Maria delle Grazie Hospital in Pozzuoli**.

Hospital transfer and return to SAR readiness

Upon arrival at the hospital facility, the patient was **disembarked and entrusted to the care of the medical staff**. The crew then returned to Ischia to disembark the medical team, before returning to the base at **Pratica di Mare**, resuming the **regular national SAR operational readiness**.

The role of the 15° Stormo in search and rescue

Since its establishment to date, the crews of the **15° Stormo** have **saved thousands of people** in situations of extreme danger. The unit provides continuous service **24 hours a day, 365 days a year**, ensuring:

- search and rescue of flight crews in distress
- recovery of missing persons at sea and in the mountains
- emergency medical transport of patients in life-threatening conditions
- rescue of severely injured individuals, even in **complex weather conditions**

Since **2018**, the 15° Stormo has also acquired the **AIB - Forest Firefighting** capability, contributing to the prevention and combating of fires throughout the national territory, as part of the Defense's joint forces system.

A SAR network distributed throughout the national territory

In addition to the 85° Centro SAR in Pratica di Mare, the 15° Stormo also includes:

- the **80° Centro SAR** in Decimomannu (Cagliari)
- the **82° Centro SAR** in Trapani
- the **83° Gruppo Volo SAR** in Cervia
- the **84° Centro SAR** in Gioia del Colle (Bari)

A widespread network that allows the Italian Air Force to intervene **quickly and effectively** throughout the national territory, representing a fundamental asset not only for Defense but

also for the **safety and protection of citizens' lives.**

News link: <https://www.aeronautica.difesa.it/news/soccorso-aereo-elicottero-del-15-stormo-dellaeronautica-militare-trasporta-durgenza-un-uomo-dallisola-di-ischia-a-pozzuoli-2/>