

Standard Operating Guidelines

Guideline 601.0 Landing Zones



Purpose:

Setting up landing zones for helicopters is very dangerous to all personnel involved. Both the landing zone personnel and the helicopter personnel must be in communication with each other for the safety of emergency personnel on the ground and in the air.

Guideline:

When setting up a landing zone and when unloading or loading people and equipment the following must happen.

Personnel setting up the landing zone will establish an area approximately 100 feet by 100 feet. The landing zone must be free of hazards such as electrical wires, be a level surface, and be able to hold the weight of a helicopter. All personnel will be in full firefighter protective clothing.

A landing zone officer will be established. This person will communicate with the pilot of the helicopter and give pertinent information in regards to the landing zone and any patient information to the crew of the helicopter. Just prior to the landing of the helicopter a smoke flare will be ignited during daylight hours so as to give the pilot the ground level wind direction for landing purposes. At night the wind direction will have to be done by sight or by contacting dispatch for wind speed and direction, and then placing the yellow strobe on the windward side of the landing zone to give the pilot the direction of the wind. The speed and direction may be communicated to the pilot at the time of the LZ briefing with the pilot.

Once the helicopter has landed all personnel must remain in their positions unless directed otherwise by the pilot or by command. The landing zone officer then must notify dispatch that the helicopter is on the ground. Do not approach the helicopter unless directed to do so by a member of the helicopter crew. If you must approach the helicopter, do so from the front only having eye contact with the pilot. Never approach from the tail rotor position or from the main blade position unless directed by one of the crew members.

Personnel loading a patient when the helicopter is running shall wear full protective equipment. Personnel will follow the directions of the helicopter crew when loading or unloading.

Once the helicopter is in the air the landing zone staff is relieved of their respective positions and the landing zone officer is to contact dispatch and advise that the helicopter is in the air.