

Helicopter Operations

HELICOPTER OPERATIONS

When requesting helicopter medevac:

1. Contact MedCom with exact location for rendezvous. Include route numbers, any pertinent landmarks, landing zone commander identification, and radio frequency.
2. Provide MedCom with all available patient information and care being administered. Minimum information should include chief complaint, age, sex, systolic BP, respiratory rate and Glasgow Coma Scale.
3. Set up a landing zone that is at least 100 X 100 feet square and free of any obstructions or loose material, (i.e. dirt, gravel or snow). Provide as level a surface as possible. Mark all four corners of the landing zone with flares or other marker and place a fifth on the down wind side. Be sure to secure the markers, as the rotor wash can blow them a great distance and could possibly be a fire hazard. You can also mark the landing zone with rescue vehicles parked in a triangular fashion with their headlights on low beam until helicopter in on final approach, then no white lights (head lights or scene lights) at the landing zone. Also remember red flashing lights are an excellent way to mark your location. **NEVER AIM ANY LIGHTS INTO THE PILOT'S EYES. THIS COULD DESTROY HIS OR HER NIGHT VISION AND RESULT IN A CRASH!**
4. If setting up your landing zone in the roadway, it is essential that you mark all utility lines and relay their exact location as well as any other hazards to the pilot. Utility lines must be marked with a line of flares (or other warning device) below the wires spaced 4 to 5 feet apart. Do this for all utility lines in the area. Remember utility lines are invisible from the air and can cause a catastrophe if not properly marked and identified to the pilot.

Helicopter Operations (continued)

5. Once the aircraft has landed allow no one to approach the craft. You should only approach the craft after being instructed to do so by a member of the flight crew. Never approach the helicopter from the rear or on the uphill side if landing on a slope. Always stay in the pilot's view. Even though some helicopters have high set main rotors, some do not. To be safe, always walk in a slightly crouched position. No hats, except firefighter type with chin straps fastened, under the main rotor if helicopter is running. Never carry anything above the level of your head and secure blankets, sheets, etc. **STAY AWAY FROM THE TAIL SECTION OF THE CRAFT AT ALL TIMES!**
6. When loading your patient, a member of the flight crew will accompany you. Keep all others away from the craft.
7. Maintain communications with MedCom and the helicopter at all times on the frequency you initially called in on unless otherwise specified by MedCom.