

CHAPTER II Operations
SUBJECT 4 Emergency Medical Operations
TOPIC 4 Air Care Helicopter

A. SCOPE

This topic provides specific information to be used at all situations involving the use of the all medical helicopters. Unless specifically superseded by this procedure, all other Fire Department Procedures shall be used in operations involving medical helicopters.

B. PRIORITIES

1. Safe movement and treatment of patients using medical helicopters.
2. Safety of emergency responders, helicopter crews and the public.

C. SAFETY

1. Landing site must be clear of overhead obstructions. Notify the pilot of the location and height of any overhead obstructions.
2. Clear the site of debris and loose objects, e.g., clothing, sheets, or blankets. You may expect winds of 60 to 70 mph.
3. Wearing eye protection in the landing zone is mandatory.
4. Never approach the helicopter until signaled by the flight crew. Remember, if you can see the pilot's eyes, he can see you.
5. Only flight crew members may open and close aircraft doors.
6. Always approach and leave the helicopter from the front
7. When flammable or poisonous vapors are involved select a landing site at least one mile upwind.
8. Night Operations:
 - Do not use flashing lights, or point lights at the helicopter while it is airborne. This could temporarily blind the pilot at a critical time.
 - Mark the corners of the landing site, and the center of the windward edge with flares. An alternate method of marking corners is to use police cars, or apparatus with flashing lights. Headlights or auxiliary lights should point toward the center of the landing site to avoid "blinding" the pilot.
9. Never smoke during emergency helicopter operations.

10. Do not run while in the vicinity of the helicopter.
11. Do not carry IV's or other objects above your head. Carry long objects parallel to the ground.
12. Do not operate anywhere near the tail rotor of the helicopter.
13. There is no standard ground clearance for helicopter blades. Use extreme caution anytime around rotating blades.

D. OPERATIONS

The first arriving fire unit, recognizing the possible need for a medical helicopter, should notify Fire Dispatch to request that the Air Care helicopter be placed on "stand by". This will alert the air crew to respond to the helicopter and prepare for a potential response. In situations involving entrapments or multiple victims, request that the Air Care helicopter is dispatched anytime the medical assistance team might be beneficial to the patients.

All calls for Air Care will be channeled to Fire Dispatch through the Incident Commander.

Communications with Air Care can be accomplished using the 800 MHz radio on 8i TAC 2 (Zone C 14) to provide landing instructions, advising of overhead wires, etc.

Communications with Police can be accomplished on CPD channels 1 through 5 (Zones D 8-12). Even though the Police radios are divided by Districts, communication can still be accomplished through any of the Police District Channels regardless of which channel is selected.

Police officers on the scene will be responsible to secure a suitable landing site, and to keep unauthorized personnel and vehicles at least 100 feet away from the landing zone.

Air Care crew will work with you to stabilize the patient before transport. Do not take the patient to the helicopter until directed by Air Care personnel.

Once Air Care has been placed on standby or is responding, only the Fire Department Incident Commander can cancel to request.

Only trained in Landing Zone personnel should set up the LZ.

Consider parking emergency vehicles under any overhead wires if possible and notify pilot.

Air Care can land on any reasonably level area; minimum 100' x 100' firm surface.

The clearance for a Landing Zone should be large enough to allow the helicopter to approach and depart in a 45 degree angle.

The Landing Zone Officer should survey the area for ½ mile radius for all obstacles.

Note: Structures less than 200 feet in height are not required by law to have warning lights.

Be alert around the helicopter

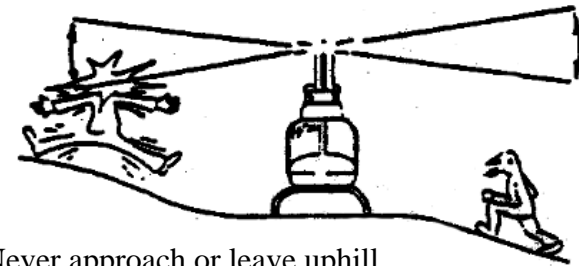
Don't slam the doors, but close them gently and don't let them swing in the wind

Don't touch the bubble [it's only plastic], or any moving parts



ALWAYS
approach from the
downhill side

Never approach or leave uphill
[rotor blades are expensive]



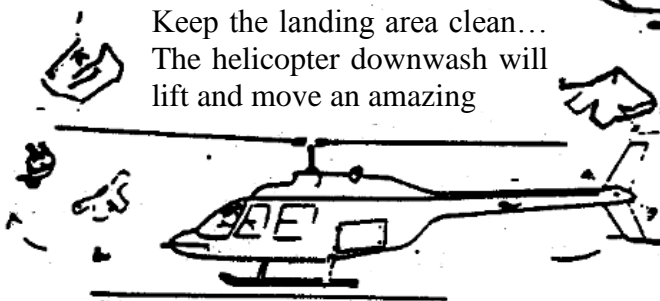
PROTECT YOURSELF

1. **Fasten seatbelt** on entering the helicopter and leave it done until the pilot signals to get out
2. **Ask the pilot** about emergency exits and escape procedures
3. **Dress** for the operating environment
4. **Keep well clear** of landing areas when the helicopter is landing or taking off, especially with external load
5. **Shield your eyes** near a helicopter when it is landing or taking off.

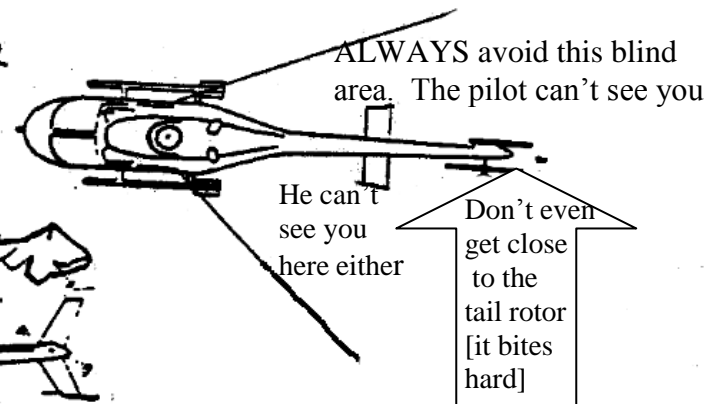


Approach and leave the helicopter in
a crouched manner

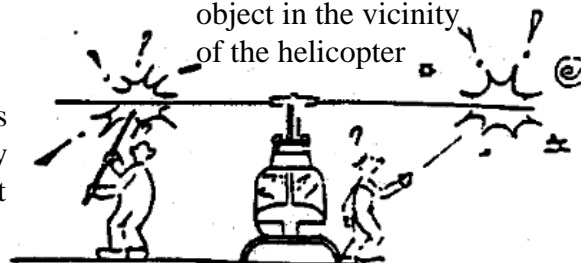
Keep the landing area clean...
The helicopter downwash will
lift and move an amazing



Carry tools
and other
long objects
horizontally
below waist
line, not
upright or
over the
shoulder



Never throw any
object in the vicinity
of the helicopter



Hold on to your hat. Don't make campfires
near the pad. She makes great winds

NIGHT LANDING ZONE MARKINGS

