

# HOW TO WORK SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH EMS HELICOPTERS IN MINNESOTA

**Several Hospitals in Minnesota provide Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Helicopters.** Locations, vendors and providers may change, but no matter where you are in Minnesota there is an EMS helicopter stationed within 1 flight hour of your location. EMS helicopters are requested through the county dispatch system. The closest available helicopter will be dispatched.

**Preparing for a Safe and Effective EMS Helicopter Operation** begins when the helicopter is ordered. Several items must be considered:

- Landing Area – At scene or does victim need to be moved to a more suitable location
- Latitude / Longitude of Helispot – DM.MM degrees and decimal minutes (decimal to hundredths)
- Site Security – One person to coordinate all personnel on scene and to communicate with the pilot
- Hazards – Power lines, towers, trees, other aircraft
- Scene Assessment – Ensure it meets the Landing Zone requirements



**Communication between Helispot and EMS Helicopter will be with radio.** The type of radio (FM or 800MHz) and frequency or talkgroup should be established and confirmed with the county dispatcher.

- Air-Ground
    - FM – VMED28 – 155.3400 TX156.7
    - 800MHz – As assigned for the event
      - Example S-TAC4
  - Air-Air
    - VHF-AM – 123.025
    - Frequency assigned to the Incident
- Positive communication with all resources is required for safe and effective operations.

## **Landing Zone Information:**

**Minimum dimensions for landing zone area is 100' x 100'.**

- Large opening that is flat, clear of people, vehicles, rubbish, stumps, brush, fences and large rocks.
- Actual landing pad should be a minimum of 20' x 20'

## **Approach & Departure Paths**

- Helicopter will land into the wind.
- Optimum:
  - ✓ 300' long x 100' wide approach and departure lanes
- Use 8:1 slope ratio from landing pad to determine allowable obstacle height
  - ✓ 12' obstacle at 100'
  - ✓ 20' obstacle at 160'
  - ✓ 30' obstacle at 240', etc.