

HOW TO WORK SAFELY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH EMS HELICOPTERS IN MINNESOTA

EMS Helicopter Request Procedures:

- Requests for EMS Helicopters should be routed through the county dispatch system either direct or through your local IA Dispatch. If ordering direct ensure your dispatch has been notified.
- Critical dispatch information:
 - **Latitude / Longitude** of Landing Zone (LZ) – DM.MM degrees and decimal minutes (decimal to hundredths)
 - **Air Contact or Ground Contact**
 - **Nature of injury & patient weight**
 - **Frequency** - County dispatch will provide you with an assigned frequency or talk group
 - **EMS Helicopter Configuration**
 - ✓ Wheels or skids - road, firm ground
 - ✓ Skids only – marginal soil conditions

Preparing for a Safe and Effective EMS Helicopter Operation begins before the helicopter arrives. Consider:

- **Scene Assessment** – Does the LZ meet requirements or does the patient need to be moved to suitable LZ
- **Site Security** – Identify a Landing Zone Officer (LZO) to coordinate landing zone activities and communicate information on hazards, LZ conditions and current patient status to the pilot
- **Hazards** – Power lines, towers, trees, other aircraft
- **All UAS aircraft must be grounded**



Communication between Landing Zone 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**
 - 800MHz – As assigned by dispatch
 - Example S-TAC4
 - FM – VMED28 – 155.3400 TX156.7
 - **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 (LZ) 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' with a flat, level surface.

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.

