

**OKALOOSA COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

Title: Helicopter Transportation
Policy: 428.00
Purpose: To provide procedures for EMS crewmembers when requesting patient transport by helicopter Okaloosa County EMS will request air support in an appropriate and efficient manner.

Policy:

When a determination of need for a helicopter is made, dispatch will be notified of the need and will make the contacts necessary to provide such transport.

Request for Service:

1a. Information to dispatch will include the scene location or designated landing site (if other than the emergency scene), using street or facility locations.

1b. Auto-Launch Criteria: The following incidents and locations will be treated as an auto-launch situation for air assets:

1b1. All Pediatric Trauma Alerts regardless of location

1b2. All multi-casualty incidents

1b3. In IRA 008c, 027, 025, 026A, 026B, 024NE, 024NW, 021, 022N, 022W, 022SE, 022SW, 023A, 023B, 023SE, 020, 020E, 008C, the following incidents:

- a. MVC with Rollover
- b. MVC with ejection
- c. MVC with entrapment
- d. MVC versus pedestrian
- e. MVC involving motorcyclists or bicyclists
- f. Gunshot Wound or Stabbing/penetrating wounds

1b4. in IRA 024NW, 027, 025, 026A, 026B, 020, 023SE, 023A:

- a. /Chest Pain
- b. Stroke
- c. Cardiac Arrest

The auto-launch notification will be initiated by the Okaloosa County Communications Center through AirComm.

The MedFlight 1 crew has the capability to notify dispatch via SLERS radio when they have accepted the flight. The SLERS radio IS NOT TO BE USED TO NOTIFY MEDFLIGHT OF A REQUEST.

2. It is the responsibility of Fire Department personnel to provide landing zone information and EMS personnel are responsible for giving patient information to helicopter personnel. If EMS personnel are not available for communications due to critical patient care, they will advise the Communications Center to relay basic information to the helicopter.

3. The EMS Commander, Sprint Car Paramedic or paramedic in charge of patient care will provide radio communications between the scene and the helicopter regarding patient information. This will prevent confusion and avoid the possibility of conflicting instructions or information. The EMS Commander, Sprint Car Paramedic or paramedic in charge of patient are the only individuals allowed to cancel the air asset response.

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Landing the helicopter:

1. Careful consideration will be given to the selection of the landing site with regard to the size, landing surface and any obstacles such as power lines, trees, etc.
2. Lights, including flashlights, will NOT be shone upward at the helicopter as either a signaling device or a landing marker. All vehicle white, emergency lighting and scene lights will be turned off at the landing zone.
3. Ideal Landing Zone: a. A landing zone (LZ) should encompass an area of 100'x100', free of cross wires and trees.
4. The responsibility for the helicopter-landing zone rests with the pilot. The landing zone may be changed at his/her discretion.

Helicopter Safety:

1. NEVER approach the helicopter unless motioned to do so by a crewmember.
2. ONLY approach the helicopter when accompanied by the flight crew. Stay in view of the crew at all times.
3. Keep spectators away at all times.
4. The helicopter crew will secure all equipment and doors.
5. The flight crew is responsible for determining if help is needed in loading the helicopter and how many personnel are required.
6. Remove sheets from the stretcher prior to loading or offloading patient, and remove or secure loose articles of clothing, i.e., hats, jackets.
7. Keep the landing area clear of debris and loose objects.
8. NEVER approach or leave uphill from the aircraft when working near uneven terrain, i.e., interstate medians and shoulders.

Accountability and Compliance:

1. It is the responsibility of all OCEMS crewmembers to ensure that safety is paramount regarding the landing and patient loading of the helicopter.
2. Feedback from all helicopter vendors servicing Okaloosa County will be obtained at the monthly medical directors meeting

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