

Subject:	HELICOPTER RESPONSE
Section:	PPG# 4400.39
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1** A helicopter may be requested by the Incident Commander when the on-scene paramedical staff determine that it is in the patient's interest and or traffic or weather conditions require transportation via helicopter.
- 1.2** A helicopter response shall be made to CapCom by the Incident Commander

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1** The incident commander is in charge of the emergency scene and the landing zone (LZ). The on-scene paramedics are in control of the patient(s).
- 2.2** Shift Commanders shall be trained, to recognize the hazards associated with helicopter operations.
- 2.3** The Shift Commander shall be trained to act as a landing zone officer.

3.0 GUIDELINES

- 3.1** The following are factors to consider in defining an emergency landing zone
 - (a)** Is the area occupied by persons or vehicles? If so, can they be notified in a timely manner to clear the area, e.g., school or play ground.
 - (b)** Does the ground slope more than seven (7) degrees?
 - (c)** Are there any overhead wires or trees within the vicinity?
- 3.2** A pre-planned site is the primary landing zone choice as it has been chosen because of physical characteristics, normal lack of spectators and the fact that the pilots have the coordinates recorded in the Thomas Brothers maps.

3.3 Helicopter Scene Response Safety Considerations

- (a) Recommended minimum landing area guidelines for daylight operations is 60 feet by 60 feet; and 100 feet by 100 feet for night operations.
- (b) Communication between the helicopter and ground crew will be coordinated by the Incident Commander.
- (c) A landing area will be identified by the fire apparatus using red lights with the headlights turned off.
- (d) A landing zone officer should be assigned to assist the helicopter to the designated landing area and to ensure that the helicopter is clear of obstructions.
- (e) The landing area should be secured.
- (f) Wind directions and severity should be noted to assist the helicopter to land downwind of the incident.

3.4 *No personnel* shall approach the helicopter *at any time* without permission from the designated landing zone officer. All personnel at the scene will be directed to not approach the helicopter at any time while it is running from up-slope, nor to walk behind it.