

Planning for Medical Emergencies

Prior to each operational period, Incident Commanders (ICs), supervisors, and all wildland firefighters need to ask and be able to answer the following three questions:

1. What are we going to do if someone gets hurt?
 - Are there personnel on your crew/division/fire that can provide medical support?
 - What type of equipment is available to treat and transport injured personnel?
2. How will we get them out of here?
 - Could you get an injured firefighter to a road or helispot?
 - How many personnel and what kind of equipment would you need to get an injured firefighter out?
3. How long will it take to get them to a hospital?
 - Where is the closest hospital?
 - Will you use air or ground transportation?
 - Could conditions change and affect the transportation timeline?
 - Smoke/clouds/nightfall
 - Fire behavior
 - Mechanical failures

All operational activities should be based on answers to these questions. If the answers are insufficient, stop, reassess, and consider alternate strategies and tactics.

Reference Medical Incident Report, ICS 206 WF, on page 120.