

## **Helicopter Extraction Operations**

The intent of helicopter extraction operations is to insert qualified personnel into inaccessible areas to extract a patient for transport to the nearest medical facility. These operations are not meant to be a medical transport resource; life flight or ground transport should be ordered in addition to the extraction aircraft and crew.

### **ORDERING:**

- On-scene EMT or Medical Incident IC determines/ requests that medical extraction is required and coordinates the order through the Incident Management Team (IMT) or local dispatch.
- Use the Medical Incident Report (page 120). Include the patient weight and name of on-scene radio contact.
- Establish communications with incoming aircrew. Provide the following information: known hazards, terrain, wind speed/direction, patient update.

### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Choose extraction site away from fireline or black edge.
- Ensure the area is clear of non-essential items and personnel. Follow the directions of the aircrew.
- Rotor wash may affect overhead hazards and blowing dust/debris can create brown out conditions.

- Aerial Supervision is valuable for coordinating aviation medevac missions.
- The aircrew will make the final assessment regarding the safety of the mission. Always have a contingency plan in case a helicopter cannot be used.
- It is easy to become caught up in the urgency of a mission, especially those involving life-threatening situations. Regardless of the emergency, follow basic fireline and aviation safety procedures.

**Rescue Hoist:** A cable winching device mounted to the helicopter that is capable of lowering/raising persons attached to the cable.

**Short-Haul:** To transport one or more persons suspended on a fixed line beneath a helicopter. The intent is to transport persons a short distance (short-haul), normally from a limited or inaccessible location to a safe landing area.