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Subject:	REQUESTING AIR AMBULANCE STANDBY	
Section #:	**302.01**	
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Revision Date:		
Approved By:	*[signature]*	**Michael Lozano, Jr., M.D., HCFR Medical Director**

1. At any time prior to arrival and based upon information obtained by EDC the company officer or Battalion Chief may request that an air ambulance be placed on standby.

   a. The intent of HCFR in placing an air ambulance on standby is not for the helicopter to launch, but to provide information to the air ambulance provider in an attempt to reduce response times in the event the air ambulance is actually needed.

   b. It is not HCFR's intent that air ambulance providers launch prior to a formal launch request from the incident commander at the emergency scene.

2. Prior to requesting the standby or response of a medical evacuation helicopter, the company officer should consider:

   a. Is the incident located within HCFR Ground Transport Zone? (Refer to Ground Transport Zone policy)

   b. Is there an appropriate landing zone within the area? (Refer to Landing Zone Selection & Preparation policy)

   c. Would ground transportation to the hospital exceed 30 minutes?

   d. Is the mechanism of injury or pre-arrival information suggestive of a possible patient condition requiring rapid transport?

   e. Is the patient's condition requiring rapid transportation to a specialized medical facility, such as cardiac care, Level I or Level II trauma center?

   f. Is a doctor needed on the scene before patient is transported to a medical facility?

3. Once the determination has been made to fly the patient and the air ambulance provider has been given the order to launch, the Incident Commander will dedicate a suppression company to set up and operate the landing zone.

   a. If there is not enough equipment or HCFR members on the scene to make this possible, he/she will request an additional suppression company for this purpose.