

Section: Medical Evacuation (Medevac) / Air ambulance Operations
Subject: AIR AMBULANCE FIRST RESPONSE
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Page 1 of 1

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1. The decision to use a helicopter as a transport unit prior to the arrival of a ground transport unit shall be based upon the patient's condition following completion of the initial patient survey by an HCFR qualified paramedic.
 - a. Evaluation of the mechanism of injury as the sole parameter is not appropriate criteria when determining the need for a helicopter as a first response unit.
2. Before an HCFR Company Officer request is made for helicopter first response, the following criteria should be considered:
 - a. Does the patient have a life threatening traumatic injury or medical condition that requires prompt medical intervention?
 - i. Will the total time from initial patient survey to arrival at the destination facility exceed thirty (30) minutes?
 - b. Is the patient located in an area which is inaccessible to regular ground vehicle response?
 - c. Is there an appropriate landing zone within the area to accommodate safe landing of the aircraft?
 - d. Are sufficient members and equipment available to manage the landing zone, provide scene security, and assist the flight crew upon arrival and throughout the mission prior to departure?
 - e. Is the distance from the landing zone to the emergency site reasonable so flight crew members are able to respond on foot with appropriate equipment?
 - f. If the distance from the landing zone to the emergency site prohibits flight crew response, is ground vehicle transportation available at the landing zone to transport personnel and essential equipment (i.e. BC Vehicle, Brush Truck, etc.)?