


Section: Medical Evacuation (Medevac) / Air ambulance Operations  
Subject: LANDING ZONE OFFICER AND COMMUNICATIONS  
Section #: 302.04  
Issue Date: March 21, 2011  
Revision Date:  
Approved By: 

Page 1 of 2

Michael Lozano, Jr., M.D., HCFR Medical Director

1. Upon notification from EDC that a helicopter has been dispatched, the IC will designate a Landing Zone (LZ) Officer.
2. The LZ Officer will be responsible for the establishment and safety of a Landing Zone.
  - a. If a roadway is to be closed and used as the LZ, this information must be clearly and specifically communicated to the appropriate law enforcement agency along with a request for their assistance.
  - b. Try to minimize the time that the road is closed and notify law enforcement as soon as the roadway is clear for reopening.
3. Upon locating a site, the LZ Officer will survey the area for all hazards which will be of interest to the helicopter pilot.
  - a. All hazards will be identified on all sides of the LZ, including approximate distances away from the area in which the helicopter will actually be landing.
4. The LZ Officer will identify from which direction the wind is coming from, and will stand in the center of the upwind boundary of the LZ, with their back to the wind.
5. The LZ Officer will establish communications with the helicopter pilot as soon as possible.
  - a. Communications between ground units and helicopters will utilize the LZ CNTRL sub-fleet under the Field Operations fleet on the Hillsborough County Fire Rescue 800 MHz system.
  - b. All communications with the helicopter will be done by the LZ Officer.
    - i. No other units are to communicate on the LZ CNTRL sub-fleet during LZ operations
  - c. All communications are to be brief, clear, and concise.
    - i. Make certain that all communications are acknowledged between the flight crew and ground units.
    - ii. Messages that are not acknowledged will be considered not received.
  - d. Be patient if the pilot does not acknowledge your transmission right away.
  - e. If the LZ is not ready for the helicopter to land shortly after arriving on the scene, advise the pilot and have them circle the scene until the LZ is safe for landing.
  - f. Be as specific as possible when giving directions to the pilot using compass directions. (i.e., "Engine 1 to Aero-Med, the LZ is approximately ¼ mile to the east of your present position.")
    - i. This eliminates confusion and gives the pilot specific reference points to work with in correlation to the position and flight direction of the aircraft.
6. When the helicopter arrives in the area of the LZ, the LZ Officer will advise the pilot of all pertinent information, including hazards and their type, location and distance from the LZ, wind direction and relative speed (light, moderate), and any other information that is pertinent to the safe approach, landing, and subsequent takeoff of the aircraft.

Section: Medical Evacuation (Medevac) / Air ambulance Operations  
Subject: LANDING ZONE OFFICER AND COMMUNICATIONS  
Section #: 302.04  
Issue Date: March 21, 2011  
Revision Date:  
Approved By: 

Page 2 of 2

Michael Lozano, Jr., M.D., HCFR Medical Director

7. The LZ Officer will focus their concentration on the landing zone and aircraft safety, and will not participate in any other activities at the emergency scene.
8. The LZ Officer will insure that people are assigned to prevent anyone from walking into the tail rotor or from doing something that would endanger the flight crew, helicopter, patient, or any other safety related operation.
9. Safety is the primary responsibility of everyone involved in a helicopter evacuation operation!