

Section: Medical Evacuation (Medevac) / Air ambulance Operations
Subject: SAFETY AROUND HELICOPTERS
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1. Landing Zone

- a. Landing zones are to be considered high hazard areas..
- b. It is important to assign sufficient personnel for landing zone.
- c. All civilians (including patient's family), media personnel, and bystanders from the emergency services operating on the scene, must be kept clear of the landing zone at all times.
- d. No smoking, flares or open flames are permitted in or near the marked boundaries of the landing zone.
- e. No one is to be inside the designated landing zone until the helicopter is on the ground.
- f. No vehicles are permitted inside the designated landing zone at any time.

2. Approaching the aircraft:

- a. Never approach the aircraft until instructed by the pilot or flight crew.
- b. Tail rotor systems are very difficult to see and low enough to cause injury or death; therefore, eye contact with the pilot should be established before approaching the helicopter.
- c. Always approach the aircraft from the front, in a crouched position, and in full view of the pilot or flight crew, unless given other directions by the pilot or flight crew.
- d. If the landing zone is on a slope or uneven ground, always approach the helicopter from the downhill side. *Never* from the uphill side.
- e. Before approaching the helicopter remove hats and loose objects. If wearing a helmet, hook the chin strap.
- f. Always lower your head when approaching the helicopter to protect your eyes from debris which may be thrown up by the rotor-wash.
- g. Keep intravenous lines and other equipment below the level of your head when approaching the helicopter.
- h. Never open or secure helicopter compartment doors. This will only be done by the flight crew.
- i. Only the minimum number of ground members as indicated by the flight crew will assist in loading patient on-board the helicopter.
- j. Any member assigned this duty will depart when directed by the flight crew; exiting towards the front of the aircraft.

