

Orchard Farm Fire Protection District Standard Operating Procedure

Division: 200 Emergency Operations
Section: 203 General
Subject: 203.04 Helicopter Operations



Supersedes: N/A

Approved By: 

Date: 03/18/2013

Date Last Reviewed: N/A

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PURPOSE:

To define the District's standard procedure during incidents involving helicopters

RESPONSIBILITY:

All District Personnel

PROCEDURES:

When the need arises for a patient to be transported by helicopter the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. Verify the need for an air medical unit and request the unit through St. Charles County Dispatch and Alarm (dispatch).
2. Request an additional pumper to establish a landing zone (if needed).
3. If the landing zone (LZ) is away from the scene notify dispatch of the appropriate address. The landing zone must be 75' X 75' during the day and 100' X 100' at night and must be free of trees, wires, vehicles and loose debris. Keep in mind that wires cannot be seen from the air. The LZ must be flat, smooth and may need to be wet down to prevent dust. If hazardous materials are present the landing zone must be upwind.
4. If marking devices are used they must be secured to the ground.
5. Landing zone apparatus must have emergency lights on. Aim spotlights, area lights and head lights down and towards the landing zone (note: lights are NOT to be aimed directly at the aircraft at any time).
6. Communication with the inbound aircraft should include identification of any overhead obstructions, wires, or other hazards. An approach path may be suggested, however, the final decision lies with the pilot.

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7. Do not approach the unit without permission from the pilot or crew.
8. Keep all bystanders away from the aircraft.
9. Notify dispatch of the time of the Air Medical unit's departure and their destination.