

## Procedural: Air Medical Utilization

### Criteria to use when considering use of air medical services:

- Ground transport time exceeds 15 minutes, AND
- Trauma patient meets anatomical or physiological criteria described below, or medical patient requires intervention(s) not possible by ground crew
- When the patient's clinical condition indicates the need for advanced life support capabilities- this includes cardiac arrest, respiratory distress or arrest, upper airway obstruction, or anaphylaxis. The intent of these cases is to deliver the patient to the hospital as rapidly as possible.

### Circumstances where air medical helicopters may be appropriate:

- Mechanism of injury: vehicle roll-over with ejected or unbelted passenger; vehicle striking pedestrian at >10 mph; falls from >15'; motorcycle victim ejected at >20 mph; multiple victims
- Time/distance factors: transportation time to the hospital is greater than 15 minutes by ground ambulance; remote (wilderness) location with difficult or prolonged ground access time; patient extrication time >20 minutes; or utilization of local ground ambulance leave local community without ground ambulance coverage.

### Request for Service:

- The highest level of pre-hospital personnel on scene may request a helicopter be placed on standby or be launched.
- Request will be made by radio or direct through local dispatch.
- Air medical should only be cancelled by certified EMS personnel who have completed an on-scene patient assessment.

### Destination

- Patients transported by air medical services will be taken to the nearest appropriate facility in accordance with the air medical services provider's protocols.
- Do not delay on the scene for the helicopter. If it is considered critical for the individual patient and the patient is packaged and ready for transport, start enroute to the hospital and reassign the Landing Zone either closer to the hospital or at the hospital's designated Landing Zone; the helicopter can intercept with you.

### Key Points

- A landing zone will consist of an area minimum 60'x60' (ideal site is 100'x100'), <10 degree slope, free from debris, obstruction, hazards, (i.e. wires, fences, trees, loose objects), four corners of the landing zone should be marked.
- LZ officer should notify pilot as soon as he/she can hear the aircraft and then see the aircraft.
- When EMS arrives, they must assess the situation. If it is determined by the most highly trained EMS provider ON THE SCENE that the helicopter is not needed, it should be cancelled as soon as possible.