



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE OPERATIONS

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Purpose: This procedure is written as a guideline for establishing a safe landing zone for Medical Evacuation Helicopters, and other instances of helicopter landings within GFD's jurisdiction for extenuating circumstances, of which we are notified to assist.

When the determination has been made that an aero-medical evacuation helicopter is needed, the Incident Commander (IC) should appoint someone to serve as a Ground Contact. The IC should then contact Emergency Communications and provide the unit designation of the Ground Contact and identify the radio frequency on which contact with the incoming aircraft is to be made.

Scene and Landing Zone Officer

Ground Contact shall also serve as the Landing Zone Officer. All units, equipment, and personnel assigned to Medical Evacuation Helicopter Operations shall report to the Landing Zone Officer. The Incident Commander maintains in control of the entire scene and remains in contact with the Ground Contact.

The Landing Zone (LZ)

The LZ Officer shall secure an area 60 feet X 60 feet during daylight or 100 feet X 100 feet at night or in low visibility. This area should be in close proximity to the patient(s) being airlifted and free of the following hazards:

- Loose debris, mud, or soft ground.
- Power lines, telephone lines, guide wires, or other cables in the near vicinity.
- High tension wires within 150 yards of the landing zone.
- Antennas higher than 35 feet.
- Trees or limbs that extend within 25 feet of the zone boundary limits.
- Any street lights, billboards or other structures within close proximity to the zone.

The area will be marked with one Flare, Strobe, or Traffic Cone at each corner of the landing zone. A fifth Flare, Strobe, or Traffic Cone will be placed on the upwind side.

Pumper Operations

A pumper with a minimum 5-personnel, shall be assigned to the LZ and will have the following responsibilities:

- Position pumper out of the immediate LZ, but nearby in a clear area so that it can be utilized quickly in case of a helicopter crash or fire
- All pumper personnel shall be in full PPE with SCBA and prepared to deploy pre-laid attack lines should conditions warrant.
- Pumper personnel will wet down the LZ as needed to minimize blown debris.
- Fire protection will be maintained at all times during aircraft arrival and departure.
- At no time should anyone be allowed to approach the aircraft unless directed to do so by a member of the flight crew.

The LZ Officer should advise the IC via radio when the incoming aircraft has safely landed and again upon departure. Following the safe departure of the aircraft, the LZ should be cleared and released as soon as possible.