



Missouri Valley Fire & Rescue Department

223 E. Erie St.

Missouri Valley, IA 51555

Phone 712-642-2945 Emergency 911

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

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710

Chronological History

Effective: January 1, 2010

HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE OPERATIONS

This procedure is written as a guideline for establishing Landing Zone for Medical Evacuation Helicopters.

1. When the determination has been made that LifeNet, or some other 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 number of the Ground Contact and radio frequency on which contact with the incoming aircraft is to be made (usually Fire Mutual Aid). This duty may be delegated to on-scene police units if conditions warrant.
2. 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.
3. The Landing Zone Officer shall secure an area 60 ft X 60 ft during daylight or 100 ft X 100 ft at night or in low visibility. This area should be in close proximity to the patients and free of the following hazards:
 - (1). Loose debris, mud, or soft ground and,
 - (2). Power lines, telephone lines, guy wires, or other cables in the near vicinity and,
 - (3). High tension wires within 150 yards of the landing zone and,
 - (4). Antennas higher than 35 feet and,
 - (5). Trees or limbs that extend within 25 feet of the zone boundary limits and,
 - (6). Any street lights, billboards or other structures within close proximity to the zone.
4. 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.
5. A pumper or rescue, with a minimum two person crew, shall be assigned to the Landing Zone and will have the following responsibilities:
 - (1). Stage pumper or rescue out of the immediate Landing Zone, but nearby in a clear area so that it can be utilized quickly in case of a helicopter crash or fire
 - (2). At least two crewmembers should be in full PPE, with S.C.B.A., and prepared to deploy

attack lines should conditions warrant.

(3). Wet down the Landing Zone as needed to minimize blown debris and,

(4). Fire protection will be maintained at all times during aircraft arrival and departure.

6. At **NO TIME** should anyone approach the aircraft unless directed to do so by a member of the flight crew.
7. The Landing Zone officer should advise the IC via radio when the incoming aircraft has safely landed and upon departure.
8. Following the safe departure of the aircraft, the landing zone should be cleared and released as soon as possible.

**By Authority of:
Fire Chief**

Eugene Shaeffer