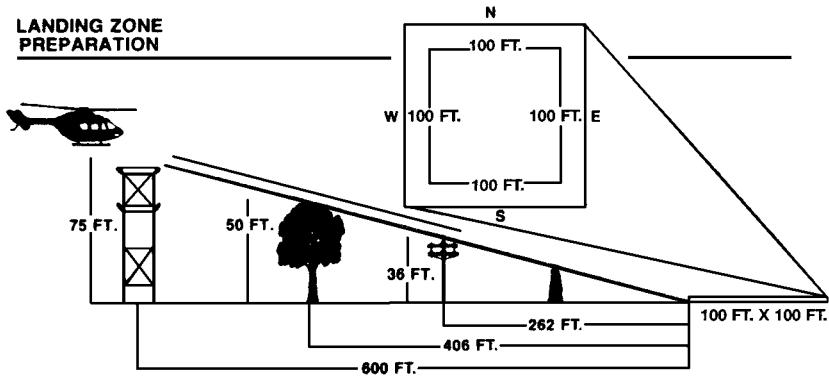


Helicopter Service Guidelines for Pre-Hospital Personnel



Preparing the Landing Site:

Determine if the area is large enough to land a helicopter safely.

Is the area flat (maximum of 6 degrees slope), firm, free of debris?

Touchdown area should be 100 ft. x 100 ft.

The site should be clear of people, vehicles, trees, poles, and wires.

Consider the wind direction. Helicopters land and take off into the wind.

Are the approach and departure paths clear of obstructions?

Be prepared to assist the crew by providing security for the helicopter.

At night, mark the touchdown area with five lights, one in each corner, and the fifth light upwind to indicate wind direction. Approved marking devices include electric or battery powered lights, items wrapped with reflective tape, traffic wands and vehicle headlights, if positioned so as not to blind the pilot.

LZ Security:

Assist personnel to assure bystanders do not approach the helicopter, *especially the dangerous tail rotor!*

Night Operations:

Bar lights on police/fire/rescue vehicles are helpful in finding scene.

Turn off non-essential lights. Keep flashlights pointed away from pilot.

White lights (hi-beam headlights, spot lights, etc.) temporarily blind pilot.

Helicopter Safety:

Your common sense is the best guide. Be cautious, calm, and do not rush. Follow these rules:

No smoking within 100 feet of the helicopter.

Approach and depart the helicopter from the front. (You can see the pilot.)

When approaching and departing the helicopter, keep low.

Carry long objects horizontally to avoid contact with main rotor blades.

If the helicopter is on a slope, approach and depart down-slope side only.

Assure that everyone working near the helicopter uses eye protection.

When the helicopter has landed, allow no one to approach the aircraft.

Keep spectators at least 200 ft. from the touchdown area.

Keep emergency service personnel at least 100 ft. from touchdown area.

No ball caps under turning rotors. If helmets are worn, secure with chin straps.

Keep ambulances at least 100 ft. from turning rotors.

Keep the take off path free of vehicles and spectators.

If anything unsafe endangers the helicopter during approach, order "Go-Around".

Placing the patient on the helicopter litter will not be done under the turning rotors.

