

LANDING ZONE GUIDELINES

24-Hour Communications Center: 206.329.2569 or 800.426.2430

When preparing for emergency air transport, we ask that you follow these landing zone guidelines. For more information, please visit airliftnw.org/LZ.

ACTIVATE US EARLY! Call us as soon as possible for the most rapid response.

#1 BEFORE HELICOPTER ARRIVAL

- Select LZ location at/near incident site***
Send us directly to the scene if possible.
- 15' x 15' landing gear touchdown area
 - 100' x 100' for all operations
 - Clear of obstructions/overhead wires
 - Less than 10 degree slope
 - Roadway, school, parking lot or field
 - If very rural, consider GPS locator



- Inspect the landing zone (LZ):**
Landing zones should be clear of:
- Debris and unsecured materials and brush taller than knee high
 - If the LZ is dusty or covered in loose grass, spraying the area with water helps but is not necessary



- Prepare a brief LZ description:**
- Note overhead wires, light standards, radio towers, fences, obstruction or other hazards in relation to compass bearings (N,S,E,W)
 - Note surface winds and visibility (N,S,E,W)



- Observe LZ safety and security:**
- Fire department personnel should maintain a 200' perimeter for bystanders, from aircraft arrival through departure
 - PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (vision and hearing protection) should be used

- Minimize LZ lighting issues:**
- No white strobe lights. Use red lights to assist in noting location
 - Flares are OK as long as they are not a fire hazard due to the helicopter downwash
 - All white lights, such as headlights, should be OFF during landing and takeoff to protect pilot's night vision
 - Do not spotlight overhead hazards; park a vehicle beneath overhead hazards



* We can also land at non-established LZs. Always make sure that all safety precautions are met, including moving dumpsters, clearing debris and making sure that there are no obstructions.

The acronym SO WHAT can help you easily recall these instructions in a pinch.

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|------------------|----------------------------|
| (S) Suitability | (W) Winds |
| (O) Obstructions | (H) Height of Obstructions |
| | (A) Axis of Landing |
| | (T) Terrain |

#2 HELICOPTER ARRIVAL AND LANDING

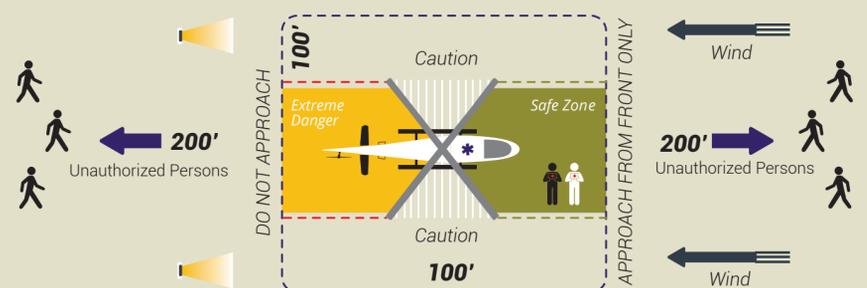
As the helicopter approaches the landing zone, be sure to:

- Brief the pilot prior to arrival, noting locations of known hazards in the LZ area
- Remain in two-way radio contact throughout landing
- If landing on a roadway, make sure to halt traffic for the duration of the evacuation
- If there are safety concerns, a pilot may need to request the LZ be moved. Be prepared to call off landing if LZ or helicopter approach becomes unsafe.



While the helicopter is in the LZ:

- DO NOT APPROACH the helicopter until the rotor blades have stopped
- Approach the helicopter only from the front, once directed by the flight crew
- DO NOT WALK AROUND THE TAIL, even when aircraft is shut down
- Maintain the LZ security and light restrictions at all times
- Review known hazards with the pilot before aircraft departure



#3 HELICOPTER DEPARTURE

The following precautions should be followed for helicopter departure:

- Clear all ground personnel away from the helicopter before the engine starts
- NO ONE MAY APPROACH after engine(s) started
- Re-establish two-way radio contact with pilot and confirm the LZ is secure
- Notify the pilot immediately if an unsafe situation develops

