

# Emergency Operations

Book:	3 Emergency Operations
Chapter	III Command Operations
Subject	4 Helicopter Operations
Code	3-III-4
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## 4.01 Purpose

To provide guidelines for use by Emergency Services personnel to safely operate around medical evacuation helicopters.

## 4.02 Policy

All personnel shall operate within the guidelines of this policy when operating near helicopters.

## 4.03 Safety Guidelines

- a. No smoking within 100 feet of the helicopter.
- b. Always approach the helicopter from the front.
- c. Never go near the tail of the helicopter.
- d. No running within 100 feet of the helicopter
- e. No vehicles or personnel within 100 feet of the helicopter.
- f. Protect eyes from debris, which may be thrown up by the rotor wash
- g. No helmets are to be worn when operating near helicopter unless chinstrap is in the correct position and securely adjusted.

## 4.04 Responsibility

1. Incident Commander is responsible for requesting the Helicopter.
2. Landing Zone Officer is responsible for selecting and overseeing the landing zone.
3. EMS Sector Officer is responsible for providing patient information to Command.

## 4.05 Procedure

### A. Request for Medical Evacuation Helicopter

1. Incident Commander shall make all requests for a medical helicopter to the Communications Operator.
2. The Incident Commander shall provide the Communications Operator with the following Information:
  - a. Exact location of incident
  - b. Mechanism of injury (MVA, Fall, Shooting, etc.)
  - c. Type and extent of injury
  - d. Number of victims

- e. Scene Contact, (“Jersey Village Command”)
- f. Radio Frequency to be used, (“1960 Fire Ground”)

B. Scene Preparation

- 1. If an engine company is not already dispatched or on scene the Incident Commander shall request that one be sent to assist with landing.
- 2. The Incident Commander shall designate a Landing Zone Officer to establish a landing zone.
- 3. The Incident Commander shall designate an EMS Sector Officer to gather patient information.

C. Landing Zone

- 1. The landing zone area must be 60’ X 60’ during daylight hours and 100’ X 100’ during nighttime hours at a minimum.
- 2. The Landing Zone should be clear of any wires, trees, buildings, poles, emergency vehicles, or other obstacles.
- 3. The Landing Zone should be free of any material that might blow about from the rotor wash during landing.
- 4. In cases where a highway is the landing zone, traffic should be stopped at least 150’ away in both directions.
- 5. Do not use apparatus spot or floodlights to light the landing zone, be mindful that bright white lights can blind the pilot.
- 6. The Landing Zone Officer shall consider the use of Class B foam as needed.

D. Approaching the Helicopter

- 1. All approaches should be done from the front or side. Never approach from the rear.
- 2. Always wait for a signal from the pilot before approaching the helicopter.

E. Operating Around the Helicopter

- 1. Emergency Service Personnel should remain away from the helicopter at all times when it is on the ground and the engine is running. Personnel should only approach the helicopter when:
  - a. Accompanying a crew member to the aircraft to assist in loading or unloading a patient; or
  - b. It is necessary to provide medical assistance to or rescue occupants of the helicopter.
- 2. Personnel should not attempt to open or close doors of aircraft. Crewmembers will operate all equipment and functions of the aircraft.
- 3. The Landing Zone Officer shall designate two member of the Engine Company to don full protective equipment including SCBA and standby prepared to assist in firefighting or rescue during landing and departure of the helicopter if the need arises.