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

#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

#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

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

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

* 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.