

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.

#1 BEFORE HELICOPTER ARRIVES

ACTIVATE US EARLY!

Call us as soon as possible for the most rapid response.

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



* 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.



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



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



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



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)



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

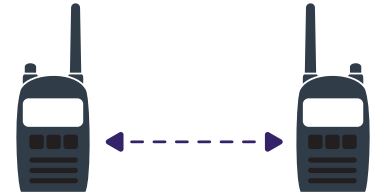
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|------------------|----------------------------|
| (S) Suitability | (W) Winds |
| (O) Obstructions | (H) Height of Obstructions |
| | (A) Axis of Landing |
| | (T) Terrain |

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#2 HELICOPTER ARRIVAL AND LANDING

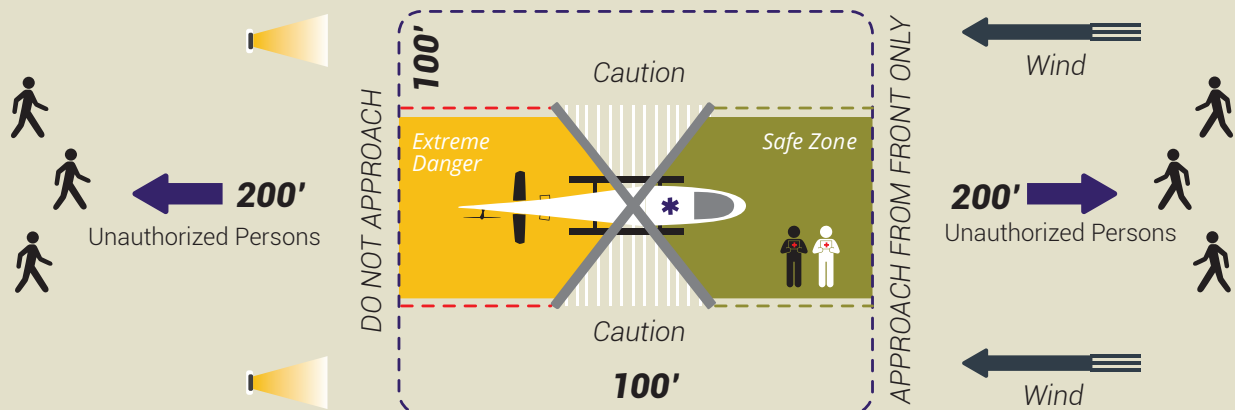
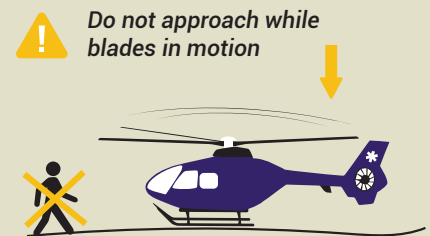
As the helicopter approaches the landing zone, be sure to:

- 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

