



# Suffolk County Fire Academy

## The Vocational Education Extension Board of Suffolk County

The Suffolk Fire Academy in conjunction with SCPD Aviation Unit would like to offer the following safety recommendations about Medic Transports.

The **Suffolk Police Aviation Section** conducts approximately 300 scene medical evacuation (medevac) flights per year. We rely on our Fire and EMS partners to maintain a safe and secure Landing Zone.



Below are some general notes on Landing Zone Safety and operating with the Aviation Section.

- Choose an area of at least 100' x 100' clear of people, vehicles, and obstructions such as trees, poles, and, especially, overhead wires.
- The area must be level (< 5 degrees of slope), free of stumps, brush, posts, large rocks, and other obstacles. Be aware of loose objects or dumpsters/debris on the Landing Zone (LZ) perimeter.
- Consider the wind direction. Helicopters land and take off into the wind.
- Choose an approach free of obstructions. Any obstruction you cannot eliminate should be relayed to the helicopter crew while enroute.
- Walk the LZ prior to aircraft arrival and remove or secure any loose items in and around the landing area such as trash, blankets, hats, or equipment.
- Wet down the landing area if dusty conditions are present.
- Park any vehicles on the perimeter of the landing area, not in the center.
- **At night, leave overhead lights on until the helicopter is on final approach to aid the pilot in identifying the L Z. Once the aircraft is on final, extinguish overhead lights and headlights. They can interfere with the pilot's Night Vision equipment. Do not shine lights at the aircraft while it is on the ground.**
- Park all vehicles on the perimeter of the landing zone. Do not move vehicles while the aircraft is on final approach. Keep vehicles well away from the aircraft. Keep pedestrians and onlookers well away from LZ.
- After landing, the Flight Paramedic will come to the ambulance to assess the patient and receive your presentation and may elect to perform additional medical interventions before patient loading.
- If a caregiver or family member wishes to accompany the patient, alert the crew. In some cases, this can be accommodated, but the crew must consider the aircraft's weight and balance, seating capacity, and the passenger's suitability for flight.

- **Before moving the patient to the aircraft, personnel must remove any ball caps or loose clothing, and extra sheets, etc. should be removed from the stretcher. Max 4 personnel to move the stretcher to the aircraft.**
- Follow the direction of the Flight Medic and aircrew when approaching the aircraft and loading the patient. Approach the aircraft from the front, make eye contact with the crew, move slowly, and be always aware of the tail rotor.
- After loading, secure any loose objects immediately and move slowly away from the aircraft following the same path you used to approach.

Thank you and stay safe,

Sergeant John J. Vahey  
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