



# Central Zone Operations

Alpine - Barona - Bonita - El Cajon - Lakeside - La Mesa  
Lemon Grove - San Miguel - Santee - Sycuan - Viejas  
Heartland Communications

## C-3 AEROMEDICAL OPERATIONS

### PURPOSE

To define criteria for patient transport via helicopter, based on medical necessity.

### POLICY

It will be Central Zone policy to utilize San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Air Medical Support Utilization Policy No: A-475, for determining utilization of authorized air medical resources.

The Incident Commander requesting helicopter emergency care services should provide the following information regarding the incident:

- Number of victims and description of injuries.
- Exact location and map reference.
- Location of the nearest landing site.
- Weather conditions.
- Radio frequency of ground contact and unit number.

The helicopter will use the radio frequency assigned to it by the requesting agency at the scene to obtain further patient information and landing site instructions.

Safety rules:

- Full turnouts and eye protection shall be utilized during helicopter landings and takeoffs.
- Hearing protection is highly recommended.
- Always approach the helicopter from the front.
- Never approach the helicopter until signaled to do so by the pilot.
- No one is permitted near the tail of the helicopter at any time.
- No smoking
- No running or loose objects within 50 feet of the helicopter (this includes hats).
- Do not assist the Flight Crew in opening or closing the helicopter doors.
- The Flight Crew is responsible for loading and unloading equipment.
- The Flight Crew will direct the loading and unloading of patients.
- Crowds must be kept back 200 feet from the helicopter at all times.



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Landing zone:

- An area at least 100 feet by 100 feet of level ground and clear of wires, trees, brush, large rocks, emergency vehicles, signs and loose objects is required. If wind is a factor, a larger area is required.
- At night, a red flare may be placed 75 to 100 feet downwind of the landing zone or a vehicle may be positioned 100 feet downwind of the landing zone with its headlights shining into the wind and illuminating the landing zone.
- The pilot will, under most circumstances, have radio contact with the ground emergency unit.

The pilot will, at all times, be the final authority on determining the appropriateness of the landing site and on all matters concerning the aircraft and the safety of the aircraft.

### REFERENCE

San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Policy No: A-475

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/ems/Policies\\_Protocols/EMS\\_A-475.pdf](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/ems/Policies_Protocols/EMS_A-475.pdf)