



PURPOSE

- I. To define guidance for the utilization of EMS aircraft by EMS personnel.

POLICY

I. AIRCRAFT AUTHORIZATION:

- A. All EMS aircraft providing prehospital patient transport within the Napa County shall be authorized by the Napa County EMS Agency. Authorization will be confirmed by written agreements between the Napa County EMS Agency and the EMS aircraft provider.
- B. Notwithstanding the requirement for a written agreement set forth above, aircraft operated by California Highway Patrol, California Department of Forestry and California National Guard may be authorized to operate as an EMS aircraft by EMSA.
- C. A request to other EMS aircraft providers by a designated dispatch center to respond to an emergency shall constitute temporary authorization to respond to that emergency.

II. AIRCRAFT DISPATCH

- A. The Napa County Emergency Command Center (ECC) is the designated helicopter dispatch center for Napa County. Any request for EMS Helicopter services in Napa County shall be coordinated through the Napa County Emergency Command Center.
- B. The Napa County ECC will automatically dispatch an air ambulance and/or ALS rescue aircraft when the incident or patient meets autolaunch criteria established by the Napa County EMS Agency or when requested by EMS personnel.
- C. The simultaneous dispatch of an EMS helicopter and a ground ambulance shall occur when the following criteria are met:
 - 1. The patient's condition meets an autolaunch EMD determinant code; and
 - 2. The patient is located within an autolaunch response zone.

III. CANCELLATION

- A. After a complete patient assessment, qualified on-scene personnel shall cancel the aircraft if they determine that ground transport is appropriate.

IV. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. ALS Rescue Aircraft
 - 1. In the event that an ALS Rescue aircraft is available, and has the fastest response time by ≥ 20 minutes to the scene, the ALS Rescue may also be dispatched in addition to the air ambulance. It is the responsibility of the IC (or designee) to cancel the resource that is not needed.
 - 2. The ECC shall advise EMS aircraft and field personnel when multiple aircraft are responding.
 - 3. An ALS Rescue aircraft shall be dispatched, when available, to any rescue incident where air rescue services are needed.

B. Scene Safety

1. The responsibility for scene management and safety shall be under the control of the Incident Commander (IC).
2. The IC shall be responsible for coordinating the scene activities including establishing a safe and appropriate landing site.
3. The IC shall consult with on-scene emergency medical personnel in making decisions regarding the utilization, or landing of, an EMS aircraft.
4. In the absence of on-scene public safety or EMS personnel, the decision to land at any incident shall be at the discretion of the aircraft pilot.

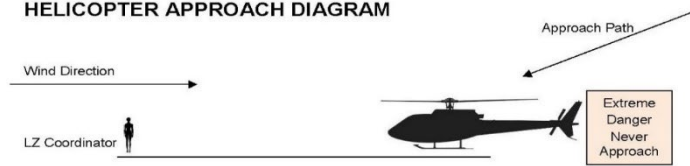
C. Transportation of Emergency Personnel

1. When appropriate and necessary, EMS aircraft may be used to transport emergency personnel or equipment/supplies to the scene of an emergency.

D. Hospital Helipad Notification

1. Queen of the Valley Medical Center (QVMC)
 - a. When utilizing the hospital helipad at QVMC, the patient team leader should provide a notification to the emergency department including the patient age, mechanism, injuries, vitals, and treatment provided in the field.
2. Adventist Health St. Helena (AHSH)
 - a. When utilizing the hospital helipad at AHSH, the ground transportation crew should provide a notification to the emergency department of pending transfer of patient care with the aircraft.

HELICOPTER APPROACH DIAGRAM



NIGHT TIME LIGHTING DIAGRAM

