

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

SR-03 - HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE OPERATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE

To ensure the health and safety of fire department, law enforcement, and EMS personnel, as well as the general public when dealing with helicopter landing zone operations.

2.0 RESPONSE

The initial assignment for a landing zone is one company. If a company is on scene providing patient care, the next available company will be dispatched for landing zone set-up.

3.0 LANDING ZONE CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Provide a landing zone a minimum of 150-feet from the emergency scene. The landing zone will be a minimum of 60' x 60' during daylight and 100' x 100' during darkness or inclement weather.

3.2 Inspect the proposed landing zone for the following hazards:

- A. Terrain: Level or sloped; rocks, bushes, tall grass
- B. Obstacles: Signs, trees, antennae, power lines, vehicles
- C. Wind direction and speed

4.0 LANDING ZONE OPERATIONS

4.1 The apparatus will be parked no closer than 150-feet from the designated center of the landing zone.

4.2 Landing zone corner marking devices (TurboFlares) will be used. At night, shut down emergency warning lights and utilize apparatus lighting to illuminate the designated LZ.

4.3 The landing zone will be reasonably clear of debris. Wash or wet down the area if necessary.

4.4 Personnel will remain outside of the landing zone perimeter, will not be in contact with the hose line (if present), and will be in a position to use the engine or other vehicle as a shield from the landing zone. Eye protection will be worn. All TWFD personnel operating at the scene will wear full protective gear. Unless it is required

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to secure the landing zone from the public, personnel will remain in the apparatus cab during landing/takeoff.

- 4.5 In the event rescue personnel are still in the rescue process, they will be notified of the landing and suitable precautions (if any) will be taken.
- 4.6 The Driver/Operator will be seated in the driver seat during landing/liftoff.
- 4.7 The apparatus performing the landing zone operation will generally be assigned as the Ground Contact with the helicopter. Fire Com and Command will be notified of who the Ground Contact will be. In some situations, EMS or law enforcement may be the Ground Contact. Ground contact will make contact with the crew, advise when they have visual contact, give a brief description of the landing zone location and conditions of the LZ, including any hazards noted in 3.0.
- 4.8 Ground Contact will attempt to obtain the pertinent medical conditions of the patient and relay to the flight crew. Factors to relay to the flight crew are: mechanism of injury, patient consciousness, patient weight, vitals, intubated/non-intubated, and any other pertinent details
- 4.9 Upon departure of the helicopter, crews will retrieve any equipment and return the apparatus to service.