

Central Region Trauma Advisory Committee

Medical Helicopter Auto Launch Suggested Operating Procedure

I. PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for Public Safety Answering Point's (PSAP's) in the Central Region of Minnesota for auto launching air medical support to emergency scenes.

II. BACKGROUND

Having a regional standard for auto launch protocols for PSAP's will assist with resource management and giving patients the best chance for survival.

III. PROCEDURE

A. The following questions should be considered for an auto-launch of the medical helicopter.

1. Does the information received meet the auto-launch criteria?
2. Is the patient 30 miles away (or more) from a Level 2 Trauma Center?
3. Which mode of transportation is in the best interest of the patient?
4. Is the scene easily accessible by road?

B. The following is a guideline of incidents to use as criteria for auto-launch of the medical helicopter.

1. Guidelines
 - a. Motor vehicle crash involving a bicycle, pedestrian, motorcycle, Snowmobile, or ATV
 - b. Crashes involving high speed impact and/or entrapment
 - c. Crashes involving death of other occupant of same vehicle
 - d. Crashes where someone is ejected.
 - e. T-bone or head-on crash at highway speed
 - f. Any fall from more than 20 feet
 - g. Watercraft incidents
 - h. Farming and Industrial incidents
 - i. Explosions or Severe Burns
 - j. Drowning or near drowning
 - k. Penetrating/Impaled injuries ie: (gun shot, stabbing, etc)
 - l. Amputations above the wrist or ankle.
 - m. Mass casualty incidents

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C. If there is a request for the same helicopter for an actual scene patient in the same PSA, the helicopter will divert to the actual patient. All responding units will be notified that the helicopter will divert to the actual call.

D. If there is a request for the same helicopter for a hospital transport, the helicopter will continue to the scene until canceled by responding units. All responding units will be made aware of the second requesting pending.

E. The responding air medical service may only be cancelled by the local jurisdictional responding ambulance service. The requesting PSAP should notify the responding air medical service of cancellation.

IV. CONTACTING AIR MEDICAL

A. The closest air medical service should be called for the scene response.

Life Link III 1-800-328-1377 or One Link App

North Memorial Air Care 1-800-247-0229

Sanford AirMed 1-844- 4AirMed or 1-844-424-7633

B. The primary air medical service contacted will contact the requesting PSAP and advise if they are available or unavailable.

1. If they are available they will give the PSAP an ETA so ground units can be advised.
2. If they are unavailable the service will contact another service to respond to the incident and will advise the PSAP.

C. All location information available from the requesting PSAP should be given to the responding air medical service (address and GPS coordinates if available)

V. SCENE SAFETY

A. Coordinating air medical response with responding ground units

1. All responding units should be advised of air medical response to the scene.
2. Local emergency personnel should be dispatched to secure a safe landing zone and a ground contact should be identified as Landing Zone officer to communicate with the responding air medical service.
3. If the helicopter is not landing on scene, an airport is always the safest place to intercept with a helicopter.