

# DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES



# GENERAL ORDER

300.06



Originating From	Issue Date	Revision Date	Attachments
Operations	7/23/1984	03/09/1995	A

**SUBJECT: Helicopter Operations**

**APPLICABILITY: All Personnel**

POLICY:

The DFRS shall utilize Maryland State Police Medvac helicopters to minimize transport time to Shock Trauma.

1 REQUESTS FOR HELICOPTER

1.1 The incident OIC on the scene of a medical emergency shall determine the need for the helicopter and request the service through Central Communications.

1.1.1 The primary mode of patient transportation to the MIEMSS Shock Trauma from the Route 29 corridor east in Howard County shall be by land due to the extensively documented land transport time of 20 minutes or less.

1.1.2 The incident OIC shall evaluate the following when making the decision to transport by land versus air.

- 1.1.2.1 MIEMSS, Shock Trauma status
- 1.1.2.2 Road conditions
- 1.1.2.3 Weather conditions
- 1.1.2.4 Patient entrapment
- 1.1.2.5 Patient condition
- 1.1.2.6 Accurate Helicopter availability

1.2 Central Communications shall be responsible for notifying the MSP helicopter for all fire service requests.

1.3 When dealing with severely trapped patients requiring lengthy extrication, the OIC shall make every attempt to time the request for service to lessen the on ground time for the helicopter.

2 LANDING PROCEDURES

2.1 Landing sites shall be chosen by the OIC following guidelines for helicopter procedures as provided by MSP. (Attachment A)

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- 2.2 It is the responsibility of the OIC to assure that all landing procedures are followed.
  - 2.2.1 Emergency lights, headlights and spotlights are to be kept to a minimum.
  - 2.2.2 Proper site identification/illumination shall be practiced.
  - 2.2.3 Proper assurance of traffic control in area, both civilian and fire service.
- 2.3 All helicopter radio communications shall be coordinated through Central Communications.
- 2.4 The OIC is responsible to have an engine company and crew present to support landings and takeoffs whenever possible.
- 2.5 Units supporting the landing/take-off site shall be operationally ready.
- 2.6 The apparatus assigned to the landing site shall be staged in a safe location and shall assure a means of exit.
- 2.7 Landing/take-off procedures shall apply when supporting helicopter transports from Howard County General.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph A. Herr".

Joseph A. Herr  
Fire Chief