

# Springdale Fire Department

## Policy & Procedures Manual

### Volume 2 – Operations

### Section 204 – EMS Operations

### 204.4 – Helicopter Responses

All SFD personnel shall be familiar with the appropriate criteria for using Air-Evac helicopter transport from an emergency scene. Personnel shall be aware that the Paramedic in charge of the patient/incident is responsible for the decision to call for the helicopter.

The decision should be based on information provided from Dispatch, First Responders on the scene, or the Paramedic's assessment on arrival. The Squad Paramedic, while responding to, or on the scene of an emergency, may request Air-Evac response.

Air-Evac does not recognize "standbys". When requested, the helicopter will respond (fly), however, the Paramedic may cancel the response any time it is deemed appropriate to do so.

The helicopter should be considered in any of the following situations:

- The patient meets the criteria for, and has been classified as a "Trauma Alert" (according to the NWA Regional Protocols) and ground transport may exceed 15 minutes.
- The patient is unstable, with potential for deterioration during lengthy ground transport.
- Extended extrication time (over 20 min.).
- There is a report of multiple serious/critical victims.
- Patient or family request Air-Evac transport due to membership.

**Under no circumstances shall patient transport be delayed due to the helicopter having not yet arrived on scene!**

Helicopter transport *should not* be considered in any of the following situations:

- The patient's condition is stable
- The patient is in cardiac arrest from either medical or traumatic etiologies
- The call is medical in nature and there would be no patient benefit of helicopter transport

SFD personnel desiring response of the helicopter shall ask Dispatch to contact Air-Evac. Dispatch will then advise SFD personnel of the helicopter's response availability. If immediate response of the helicopter is not available, personnel shall advise Dispatch to cancel the helicopter request.

All personnel shall be familiar with helicopter landing zone (LZ) procedures and required considerations to safely guide the helicopter to the LZ. When the helicopter is responding, one person should be assigned "LZ Command".

- LZ Commands task is to identify an appropriate landing zone, mark it, and contact the helicopter directly by radio.
- Communicate on SFD Channel 1 for incidents west of the city, Channel 2 for incidents east of the city

When appropriate the task of establishing the LZ should be charged to the First Responder agency.