

Lincoln County Fire and Rescue Association

Standard Operating Guideline (SOG)

Effective Date: January 1, 2007

Amended Date: May 1, 2012

Number: 301

Title: Landing Zone Operations for EMS Incidents

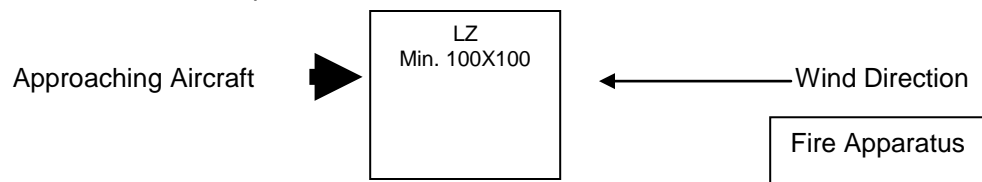
Purpose: To establish consistent and safe landing zone sites for arriving medical transport helicopters.

Activation: The role of the fire service is to establish a controlled landing zone (LZ) that meets the criteria for safe aircraft arrival/departure. A fire department can be alerted to secure an LZ when on-scene conditions of the patient are confirmed by the Incident Commander, or by a mutual aid agency or fire department that is requesting the assistance of an established LZ.

Definitions: LZ (The physical location of the landing zone)
LZ Officer (LZ Operations Officer that maintains communication with helicopter crew during landing and takeoff)

Procedure:

1. The pre-determined or actual GPS coordinates (Lat. xx.xx.xx, Long. xx.xx.xx) are to be relayed to Communications for the activation and weather check. GPS coordinates shall be in the Degrees, Minutes, Seconds format.
2. The LZ- Officer shall position a radio on **EMS Channel 2 (160)** to await the arriving aircraft.
3. An Engine or Tanker apparatus shall be positioned upwind of the LZ and an 1 ¾" hose line **able** to be deployed to the 100' by 100' level site. Deployment of hose line will occur only if emergency arises. Staff should stage behind the apparatus to be protected in the event of a crash.
4. The LZ should be walked to secure any debris that may pose a hazard to the approaching aircraft.
5. The LZ Officer shall position themselves at a safe location near the LZ.



6. Clearly relay the following to the pilot when communication is established:
 - a. Your radio ID and that the LZ is secured. **ONLY the LZ OFFICER IS ALLOWED TO CONVERSE WITH THE PILOT.**
 - b. A description of the LZ surface (grass, concrete, dirt, clear of debris, etc.)
 - c. Any tall obstructions in the area (power lines, steeples, antennas)
 - d. Any surface wind greater than 5 mph. *This should be at your back.*
7. **STAY CLEAR OF THE TAIL ROTOR AND DO NOT APPROACH THE AIRCRAFT UNLESS MOTIONED BY A FLIGHT CREW MEMBER!!!!**
8. Hold all positions until aircraft has departed the LZ with the patient.
9. Stop traffic flow during landing and lift off if LZ is beside roadway.
10. The pilot **EXPECTS** you to maintain control of the LZ!!!!

An LZ Scene Team refresher class every few years promotes efficiency in your department.