

OACCT NOVEMBER 2014
RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING AND COMMUNICATING WITH
MEDICAL HELICOPTERS IN THE STATE OF OHIO

1. Each agency should have clearly established guidelines for when and how to request helicopter medical transport. Guidelines are available through Ohio trauma guidance and hospital medical control. Agencies should know which medical helicopter services are closest to their community, and their capabilities (e.g., enhanced weather capabilities, paramedics, nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, blood products, etc.).
2. The requesting agency should contact their dispatch center to advise them that they need a medical helicopter, specifying which medical helicopter service they prefer.
3. If an agency needs multiple helicopters (more than two), the dispatch center should consider making the request through the appropriate County Emergency Management Agency, with the same information in paragraph 7 below.
4. The dispatch center should contact a flight communication specialist for the medical helicopter service. Keep in mind that most medical helicopter services will take a minimum of seven to ten minutes to launch. Make the request as early as possible to minimize wait time on scene.
5. Consider transporting the patient to the nearest hospital. Fire departments may request rendezvousing with medical helicopters at a hospital, but must coordinate this with the receiving hospital.
6. The flight communication specialist will need the following information:
 - a. The requesting agency and geographic location;
 - b. The nature of the emergency - type of injury/illness, patient's age, sex, and basic vital signs, if available;
 - c. Location of the Landing Zone (LZ) - Latitude and Longitude (North dd/mm.mm, West dd/mm.mm), or closest street address or intersection;
 - d. The Unit controlling the LZ and responsible for communicating with the helicopter;
 - e. Any special considerations - known hazards, HazMat, active shooter, etc.;
 - f. Talkgroup or frequency for communicating with the helicopter.
7. The OACCT recommends using the following National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) universal frequencies/talkgroups for LZ communications:
 - a. 700/800 MHz radio: 8TAC92D or 8TAC94D
 - b. VHF Radio: VFIRE21, Tx & Rx 154.2800, Tx CTCSS 156.7, No Rx CTCSS
 - c. UHF Radio: UTAC41D, Tx & Rx 453.4625, Tx CTCSS 156.7, No Rx CTCSS