


Title:	Landing Zone			
Section:	500 EMS Operations			
SOG #:	502	Page:	1 of 3	
Effective Date:	January 1, 2024	Revision Date:		
Authorized By:	Fox River Fire District Chiefs			

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide direction in establishing a landing zone along with the operations associated with a helicopter landing.

B. SCOPE

This guideline shall apply when the request has been made for a helicopter.

C. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

There are no special terms or definitions in this guideline.

D. GUIDELINE

1) Landing zone preparation

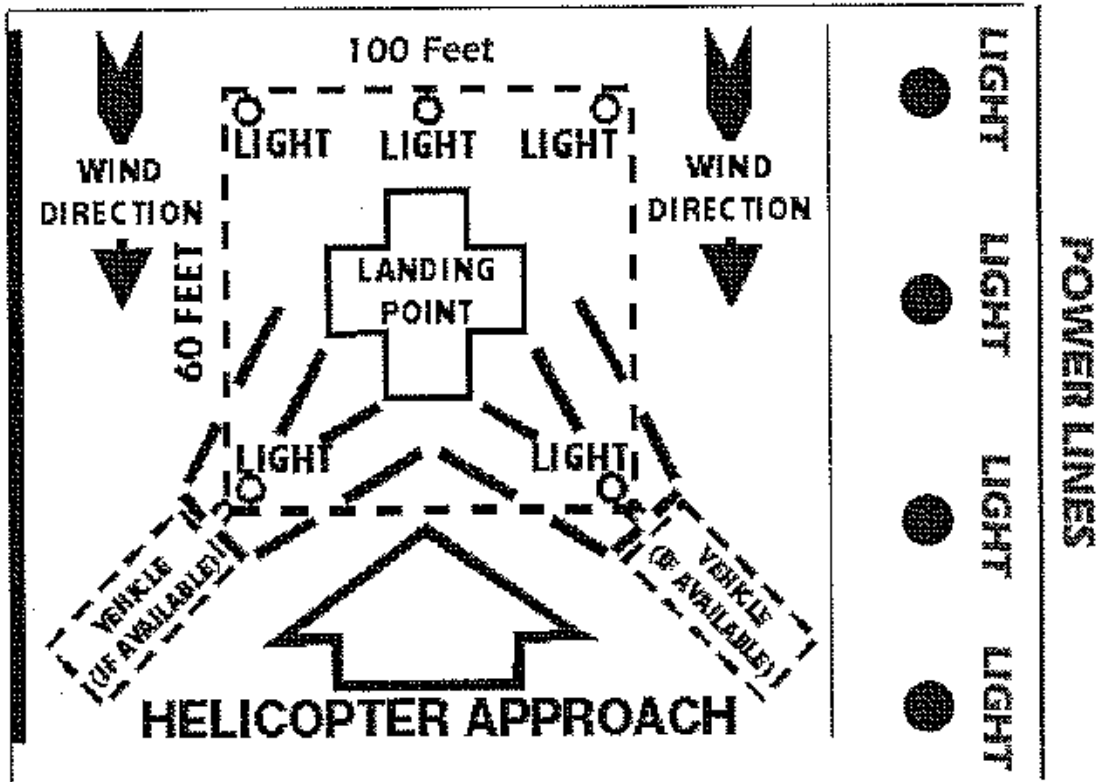
- a) Should be level, firm, and free of loose debris
- b) The landing zone should be at least 60'x60' in daytime / good visibility or at least 100'x100' in nighttime reduced visibility
- c) Clear the landing zone of people, vehicles, and any other obstructions
- d) Remember that wires are difficult to see from the air and the crew should be notified of any in the area.
- e) Keep spectators and emergency vehicles back at least 200'
- f) Eye protection should be worn during landings and take-offs

2) Landing zone marking and lighting

- a) Day
 - i) Use cones or other markers to designate the perimeter of the landing zone to the pilot overhead
- b) Night (See Illustration 1)

- i) Mark the landing zone with five lights (one in each corner and one indicating the direction the wind is coming from)
- ii) If lights are not available, set up two vehicles on the downwind side at 45 degrees to the landing zone to illuminate the landing zone (low beam)
- iii) Obstructions such as power lines adjacent to the landing zone should be marked with a row of lights 20' apart extending the length of the landing area and placed between the landing area and the obstacle, closest to the obstacle

Illustration 1

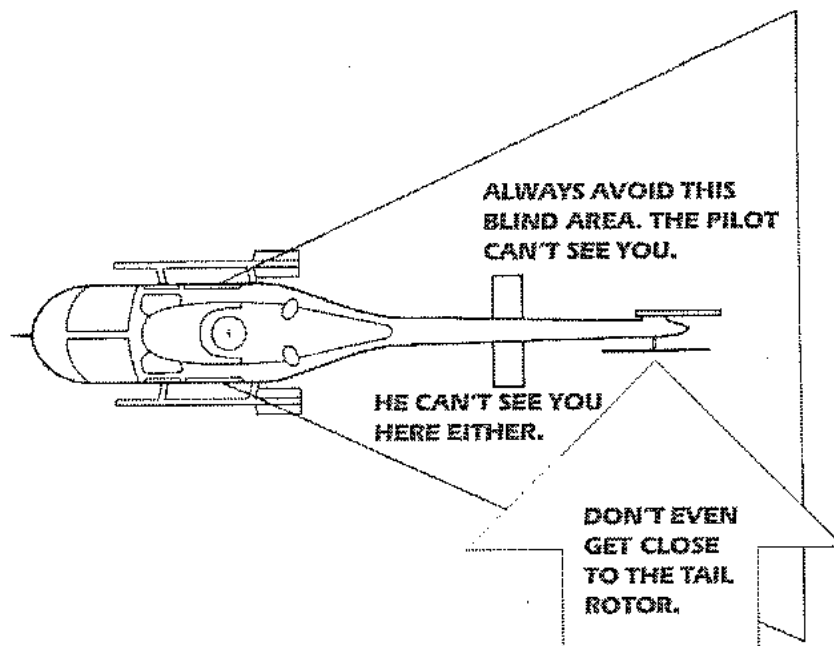


3) When Incident Command identifies need for the helicopter request should be made to dispatch and should include the following:

- a) Name of requester
- b) Nature of incident
- c) Number of patients
- d) Landing zone location (town, intersection, landmarks)

4) Incident command shall assign a landing zone coordinator. Landing zone coordinator will be responsible to:

- a) Select, protect, and monitor the landing zone
- b) Contact dispatch for radio frequency to use to make contact with the helicopter pilot. Designated frequency is MARC 2 unless otherwise indicated.
- c) Control entry to the landing zone
- d) Maintain contact with helicopter pilot and assist as needed with landing
- e) **DO NOT APPROACH THE AIRCRAFT.** Only flight personnel may direct personnel or vehicles to approach the aircraft.



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