

Galveston Fire Department

1000.05 Medical Helicopter Policy

Fire Chief

Implementation Date: June 2009

Revised: January 2012

Review Date: May 2013

Medical Helicopter

When requesting the assistance of a medical helicopter, it will be necessary to ask dispatch to check availability of an “**Air Medical Helicopter**”. As a public safety entity, we **can not** request a specific air medical helicopter service by name. Dispatch has contact numbers for both providers and can contact each of these companies to determine their availability and response time.

Each air medical company has specific capabilities. Hermann Life Flight is capable of carrying two patients in many cases. They have a helicopter stationed in Pearland. PHI has a helicopter in La Porte and when they receive a request for stand-by, they will launch the La Porte Helicopter if it is available. Dispatch should let you know which company has the quickest ETA and that should be the one used if needed.

When it becomes necessary to establish a Landing Zone (LZ), personnel shall determine the best location for the LZ to allow for safety, time and practicality. Listed below are several pre-determined LZ sites for our use. It may not always be practical to use one of these sites and the LZ may need to be established close to the scene. An LZ should be 100ft. x 100ft., solid surface if possible, clear of any overhead obstructions and free of any vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic. Any deviations must be reported to the Pilot once radio contact has been established.

When Scholes Field is determined to be the LZ, E-4 should be dispatched to establish the LZ near the Terminal building. The GA parking area is the preferred location.

When establishing radio communications, the channel designated for LZ operations should be Countywide Fire. The person handling the LZ ground contact role needs to be inside the cab of their apparatus, with an unobstructed view of the LZ and monitoring the appropriate channel. The ground contact should have LZ info, special info and the patient info ready for the crew when they contact you via radio.

Pre-determined LZ Locations

UTMB – ER helipad

27TH Street @ Ave M – Practice Field

43rd @ Ave P – Practice field

56TH street @ Ave S – Burnett School Field

Scholes Field near Terminal Bldg.

Station #7

Jamaica Beach next to Church

