

# HELICOPTER SCENE RESPONSE

**UPDATED 2/2024**

**ALL PROVIDERS**

1. A helicopter can be requested by any Fire, EMS, Ski Patrol, or law enforcement agency through City Central Dispatch or V.E.C.C Dispatch (Dispatch).
2. Online Medical Control can request a helicopter after consultation with the EMS crew by radio.
3. Dispatch is responsible for notifying ground units that a helicopter is responding to the call.
4. Ground units may cancel the helicopter if no life-threatening emergency exists, or if the ETA is no longer acceptable.
5. When a hospital is to be used as a rendezvous site, the EMS crew shall inform the hospital that a helicopter has been requested. Emergency department personnel do not need to respond to the helipad during rendezvous unless requested.
6. Dispatch will maintain a Helicopter Rotation list to determine which Air Ambulance service is up in rotation. Upon contacting the “next up” helicopter service, the Dispatcher will:
  - Ask the Air Ambulance service if they have a helicopter available and where it would be responding from.
  - If the helicopter that is available is the “closest appropriate unit”, the Dispatcher will advise them to respond or to be on standby, depending upon the request made by the IC.
  - If they do not have a helicopter available, or the one that is available is further away than the “closest appropriate unit”, the Dispatcher will check with the other Air Ambulance services and ask them the same question. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> service is available and is closer than the original company, then they will be requested to respond or placed on standby.
  - If an Air Ambulance service denies a flight due to weather conditions, the Fire Dispatcher will contact the other service to see if they would be able to fly. The Dispatcher will advise the 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Ambulance service that the other service denied the flight due to weather.
  - If neither Air Ambulance company has an available helicopter that is appropriate for the incident, the Fire Dispatcher will advise the IC where the helicopters would be responding from and ask for further instructions.
7. For scene flights where the victim is a child ( $\leq 14$  years of age), the helicopter service for Primary Children’s Medical Center will be activated as the initial responder. If the helicopter from Primary Children’s is not available, either of the other services will respond. (Based on the rotation described above).
8. For scene flights where the patient is a burn victim, the helicopter service from University Hospital will be activated as the initial responder. If the helicopter from the University is not available, either of the other services will respond. (Based on the rotation described above).
9. For trauma victims with  $RTS < 10$ , the patient will be transported by helicopter to the helicopter service’s own Level 1 Trauma Center; except when the victim is a child  $\leq 14$  years of age (these patients will be transported to Primary Children’s medical Center).
10. To prevent duplicate dispatches, a helicopter service requested by an agency other than Dispatch to respond to a scene anywhere in the county shall notify Dispatch and the other helicopter service as soon as possible.