



## Relevant Legislation

- The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Health & Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

## Air Ambulance Landing Sites

Landing sites for an air ambulance may be required to assist with an incident at your premises, or elsewhere in a near location. The guidance below will help determine suitable landing locations within your own red line boundary:

### Area Size and Suitability

An Air Ambulance will:

- Require a clear landing area of 35m in diameter (approximately the size of 2 tennis courts)
- Land and take off facing into wind and the run off space under the flight path to and from the landing area should be as clear as possible
- Not be able to land where there are trees, pylons, overhead cables or where there is equipment (including vehicles), or fixtures and fittings causing an obstruction.

### What staff need to do

- In the first instance, any designated landing area should be double checked to ensure it meets the size and requirements as detailed above
- When it is known that an Air Ambulance is to land at the facility, loose objects, litter and debris should be removed (for example: remove nets if landing on tennis courts)
- All customers using the area where the Air Ambulance is due to land should be removed to a safe place out of the way of the downwash from rotor blades – any nearby building would be ideal
- When removing customers from the area, do not put up a taped cordon, this is an obstruction and a risk
- Staff should stay clear of the landing area until the Air Ambulance has landed, and the rotor blades fully stopped. The pilot will signal to staff that they can enter and approach the helicopter (always from the **front** and not the rear)
- Staff in or around the landing area must wear hi-viz clothing and should stay visible to the Air Ambulance pilot
- If the Air Ambulance landing within your red boundary in response to an incident outside your boundary – and you are therefore acting as a 'good neighbour', please note that the crew may have bolt cutters to exit the landing area if it is locked or outside of the normal operating hours of the facility.

**Note:** When the facility is near a hospital which has an A&E department but no helipad, the helicopter may wish to make greater use of your facilities.

**Actions**

- Contact your local Air Ambulance Service to discuss the proposed landing site and seek their approval
- Identify any nominated landing site location in the Serious Incident Management Pack (SIMP) and Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
- Brief staff;
  - On the actions they should take to enable the safe landing of the Air Ambulance
  - On guiding the helicopter crew to the nearest point to access the casualty.

**This RD-Doc MUST be read in conjunction with the following organisation documentation:**

- Emergency Action Plan
- Serious Incident Management procedure
- First Aid Management procedure

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**MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PLANNING FOR SERIOUS INCIDENTS COVERED!!**

For more info and templates on emergency planning  
email us at [info@rightdirections.co.uk](mailto:info@rightdirections.co.uk)

or give us a call for a chat on **01582 840 098**

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