

# Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

## B-16 HELICOPTER SCENE RESPONSE

### Criteria:

- Criteria listed are general guidelines and not intended to be inclusive, nor should it replace decisions based on sound medical judgment.
  - Multi-system trauma patient.
  - Burn patient with deep partial or full thickness burns greater than 10% BSA.
  - Severely injured or ill patient located in remote or off-road area not readily accessible to ground ambulance.
  - Ground resources exhausted or exceeded.
  - Special environmental conditions (extreme heat or cold) which affect potential patient outcome or prohibit ground access to hospital such as road/bridge damage from natural disasters.
  - Prolonged vehicle extrication time anticipated over 20 minutes in a remote area.
  - No available trauma center or appropriately staffed emergency department within 25 minutes ground transport time.

### Procedure:

- A ground ambulance crew may request a helicopter for scene response if one or more of the elements in the criteria listed above are met and:
  - A safe landing zone can be prepared.
  - Arrangements can be made with a helicopter air ambulance.
- Medical Control must be consulted when helicopter transport is being considered.
- Once the air ambulance is en route to the scene, only Medical Control may make the determination to cancel the air ambulance response.
- In the unlikely event of a telecommunication breakdown with Medical Control, the ground ambulance may summon a helicopter air ambulance to the scene if the criteria are met.
  - Document on the run report:
    - Reasons for inability to notify Medical Control.
    - Information regarding decision to request helicopter and who made request.
    - Criteria met.
    - Ground and air transport time to the nearest facility.
- When the patient is packaged and ready for transport, the ground ambulance should not wait more than a few minutes for the arrival of the helicopter.
  - When the patient is prepared for transport and the helicopter is not close to landing on site, coordinate with the helicopter agency and transport to:
    - The closest appropriate facility, or
    - The closest designated landing zone
  - *The goal is to always have the patient moving towards definitive care.*
- All requests/scene response will be reviewed by the EMS MD/EMS Coordinator.

### Hospital Destination:

- If stabilization is needed beyond that which can be done by the air ambulance crew on the scene, the patient should be transported to the nearest emergency facility staffed with an Emergency Physician for stabilization.