

Protocol No. 60

## **HELICOPTER SCENE RESPONSE**

Revised 2002

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. It is the responsibility of Dispatch to notify ground units that a helicopter is responding on 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 that hospital that a helicopter has been requested. Emergency department personnel do not need to respond to the helipad during rendezvous unless requested.
6. Life Flight and Air Med will rotate on an every-other-call basis. The rotation schedule will be kept by Dispatch. If the helicopter service on call is unavailable the other service will be requested to respond. The call-out priority will then return to the initial service and the rotation will begin again.
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.