

<b>Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY &amp; PROCEDURES MANUAL</b>	
Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: March 1, 2010
Topic: 8. Occupational Health & Safety	Replaces: 4.31
Subject: 5.6. Air Ambulance Safety Procedures	
Policy No. G.8.5.6.	Page 1 of 2

### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for ambulance staff working in or around helicopter and fixed wing aircraft.

### APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

### PROCEDURE

- 1) Safety Rules - Helicopters
  - Landing site preparation and security must be as per MOHLTC BLS Patient Care Standards
  - NEVER APPROACH ANY HELICOPTER UNTIL THE ROTOR HAS STOPPED or until advised to do so by a helicopter crew member of the aircraft.
  - Ambulance crews should STAY IN THE AMBULANCE until the helicopter crew advises them to approach the aircraft.
  - When approaching a helicopter or departing from a helicopter always remain within the pilot's normal area of vision. Walk under the helicopter blade in a CROUCHED position.
  - On sloping or irregular landing surfaces, the ambulance crew should never park their vehicle or approach from up-slope from the landing site.
  - The area adjacent to the landing site must be clear of loose objects such as tarps, cardboard boxes, clothing, etc.
  - Do not position the ambulance with opened rear doors facing the landing area.
  - There is to be NO SMOKING at the landing site during the arrival or departure of a helicopter.
  - Never attempt to load or unload a stretcher from a helicopter until an aircraft crew-person is in attendance to direct this action.
  - Do not drive under the rotors of the helicopter at anytime.
  - Do not slam the helicopter doors.
  - Under no circumstances will any personnel go around the tail section of the helicopter.
  - When approaching the helicopter, nothing should be higher than your head (I.V. poles, etc.)

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- 2) Where and Ambulance Crew is to pick up or deliver a patient to a fixed wing aircraft or helicopter at a licensed airport, the following Ambulance Crews are to follow instructions/directions pertaining to safety rules/procedures given by air crew/ground crew/or security personnel, etc., that are assigned to them during period on airport site.

<b>REFERENCE</b>
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Emergency Health Services Branch (2007), *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standard, Version 2.0*, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care