



EMS AIRCRAFT

APPROVED: _____
EMS Medical Director

Barbara Plety
EMS Administrator _____

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 Air Ambulance means any aircraft specifically constructed, modified or equipped, and used for the primary purpose of responding to emergency calls and transporting critically ill or injured patients.

1.2 Rescue Aircraft means an aircraft whose usual function is not pre-hospital emergency transport but which may be utilized, for pre-hospital transport when use of an air or ground ambulance is inappropriate or unavailable. These aircraft may be limited in the level of medical equipment they can provide.

2. AUTHORITY TO REQUEST

2.1 Air Ambulances can be activated by law enforcement, fire, ALS unit responding or PSC having information indicating the appropriateness of this resource.

2.1.1 If an air ambulance is deployed all affected agencies must be notified.

3. REQUESTING AN AIR AMBULANCE

3.1 Lifeflight Helicopter will be the first contacted resource.

3.2 CalStar Helicopter will be the secondary resource.

3.3 If Lifeflight and CalStar are unable to respond within 45 minutes from the initial contact, PSC will ascertain an ETA that includes flight time to the incident, and advise the Incident Commander.

3.4.1 If the response time is unacceptable an out of area air ambulances should be contacted.

3.4.2 If the response from any air ambulance is unacceptable then a Rescue Aircraft should be contacted to determine their availability.

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Air Medical Resources

Agency	In Area	Type	Staffing	Phone
Stanford Lifeflight	Y	Air Ambulance	2 RN	800-321-7828
CALSTAR	Y	Air Ambulance	2 RN	800-252-5050
Reach	N	Air Ambulance	1 RN /1 P	800-338-4045
Mediflight	N	Air Ambulance	1 RN /1 P	800-692-5740
AirMed	N	Air Ambulance	1 RN /1 P	800-576-7828
East Bay Regional Parks	N	Air Rescue	1 P	510-881-1833
CHP – Napa	N	Air Rescue	1 P	707-551-4180
CHP – Santa Clara	Y	Air Rescue	1 E	707-551-4180
Coastguard	Y	Air Rescue	--	See PSC process

4. GROUND UNIT RESPONSE (ALS UNIT)

4.1 PSC will dispatch one ambulance for each helicopter.

5. AUTOMATIC ACTIVATION OF AN AIR AMBULANCE

- 5.1 Air ambulances shall be activated by the PSC dispatcher after completing the initial assignment of EMS resources.
- 5.2 If EMD reveals any of the following conditions, the PSC dispatcher will activate an air ambulance response, if the incident location falls within any of the areas described in 5.3.

EMD Criteria	EMD Determinant(s)
3 rd Trimester bleeding	24D4
Severe respiratory distress	2D1, 6D1, 7D2, 10D1, 21D3, 23D2, 29D7, 30D2, 32D2
Difficulty breathing	7D1
Suspected respiratory arrest	9D2
Choking	11D1
Abnormal breathing	11D2, 15D5, 17D4
Not alert	2D2, 11D3, 21D2
Not breathing (verified)	12D3
Not breathing or underwater	14D2
Not alert and/or abnormal breathing	14D3
Hanging, strangulation or suffocation	25D1
Suspected cardiac arrest	9D1
Dangerous hemorrhage	21D1
Condition worsening	2D3
Unconsciousness	13D1, 14D1, 15D1, 23D1, 31D1, 32D1
Continuous, multiple or recurrent seizures	12D1
Breech presentation	24D5
Central wounds	27D1
Ejected victim	29D5
Dangerous injuries	30D1

- 5.3 An air ambulance will be dispatched to an incident by PSC if EMD reveals any condition listed in 5.2 occurring in the following areas:

5.3.1 Any area contained within the following:

- 5.3.1.1 San Mateo Coast, from Highway 1, south of the Half Moon Bay Fire jurisdiction line, just north of Tunitas Creek
- 5.3.1.2 Tunitas Creek Road and South Highway 1, from the Pacific Ocean, west of, but not including, Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35), to Old La Honda Road
- 5.3.1.3 From Old La Honda Road, any location accessed from Skyline Boulevard, south of Old La Honda Road

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.1 Upon initial request PSC will provide the following:

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- 6.1.1 Landing Zone (LZ) location,
 - 6.1.1.1 Proximity LZ, a location established by the Incident Commander at or near the incident
 - 6.1.1.2 Rendezvous LZ, a location established by the Incident Commander that is between the incident and the destination hospital
- 6.1.2 Radio identifier and frequency, if different than the helispot manager at the LZ.
- 6.2 The responding helicopter will advise PSC when enroute on the designated fire control channel then switch to CALCORD for ground contact.

- 7. Amendments to the response (i.e. change in landing zones) will be controlled by the Incident Commander or designee.

- 8. Cancellations will be done through the Incident Commander or designee.