

Stars Landing Zone Safety Bulletin

In an effort to ensure consistency of communication regarding Landing Zones, the STARS community education team has implemented a new approach. We will occasionally be sending out information bulletins with the help of the Emergency service and fire safety offices. We welcome feedback on the implementation of this system.

As the snow is melting, debris is often present in the landing zones. Debris involves two different types of risk for the helicopter and the working crews. Larger items such as plywood, sheet metal or vehicular debris can easily be blown around by the downwash wind of the helicopter. This causes a risk to rescuers, bystanders and property. Other hazards such as flagging tape and plastic bags can pose a risk to the helicopter by becoming entangled into the blades or getting sucked into the engine. Please take a few seconds to walk the LZ and remove any potential debris. If such debris cannot be secured or removed, it might be best to move the LZ to another area.

Please be reminded that on scene calls the helicopter landing zone should be located a minimum of 120ft or 36 meters away from the patient. This will reduce the down wash on scene and aid the Rescuer's ability to continue care of the patient without distraction. We would rather be further away then closer for safety reasons.

We have recently been emphasizing the importance of power lines during our outreach training. Due to a few landings where power lines were not identified during the LZ briefing, we would encourage you to inform the helicopter of any power lines at all in the near vicinity. Once the briefing is done we would also like to ask that you stop all traffic until the helicopter lands. Stopping traffic during final approach and identifying any power lines that are present will increase the confidence of the pilots that the area is safe to land which will accelerate the landing.

Over the last few years we have had so many great success stories due to the help of your various departments. We would love to ensure this continues in the safest possible way. If your department would like a review of the LZ training or if you have never received it please contact

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Thank you for you wonderful support from the Stars community outreach team!