



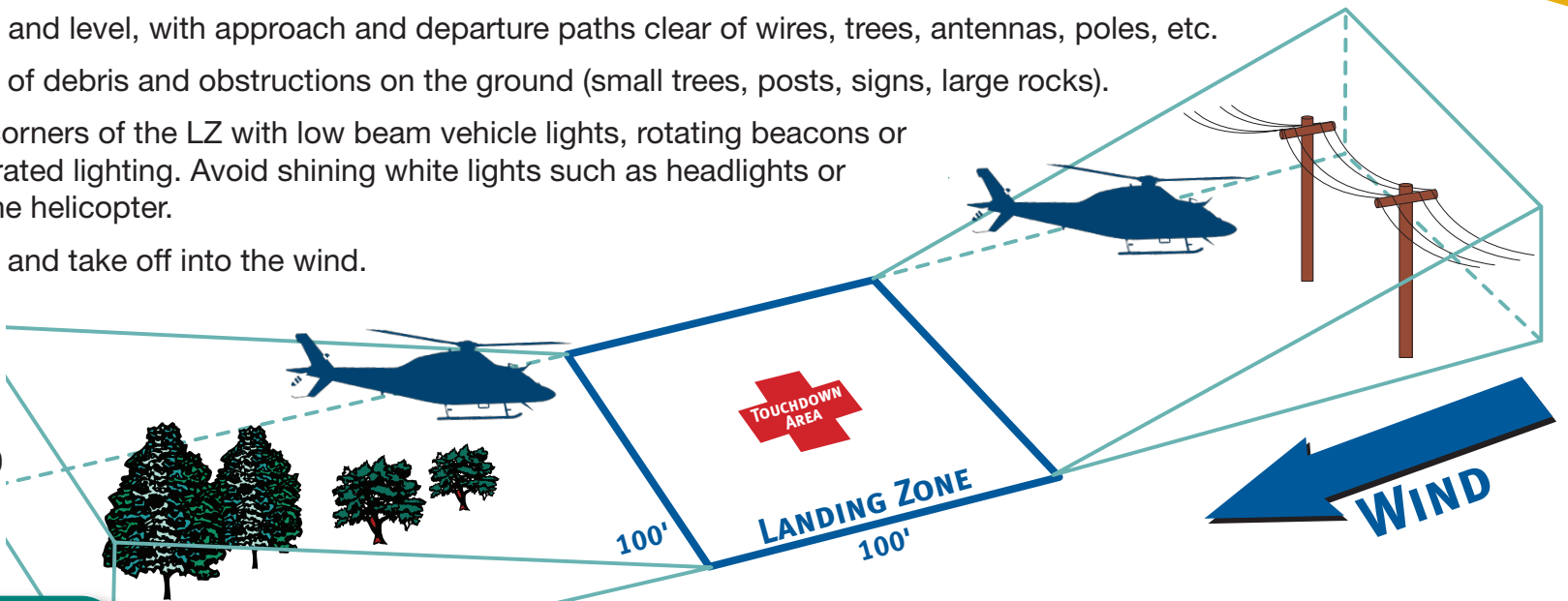
AirMethods®
A Partner of Choice

Life Link III

HELICOPTER SAFETY & LANDING GUIDELINES

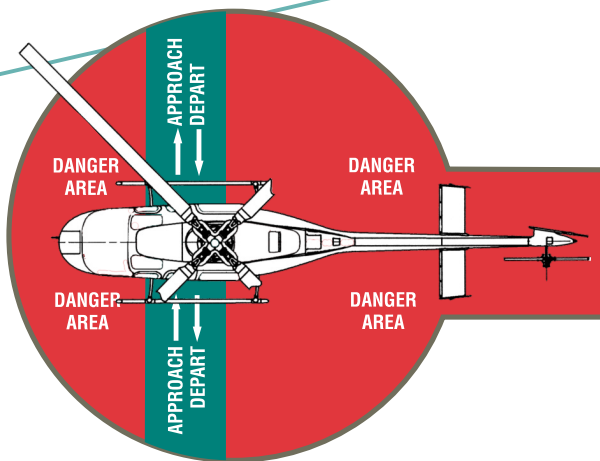
Landing Zone Selection & Preparation

- The landing zone (LZ) should be at least 100 feet x 100 feet.
- Area should be firm and level, with approach and departure paths clear of wires, trees, antennas, poles, etc.
- Area should be free of debris and obstructions on the ground (small trees, posts, signs, large rocks).
- At night, mark the corners of the LZ with low beam vehicle lights, rotating beacons or secure battery-operated lighting. Avoid shining white lights such as headlights or spotlights toward the helicopter.
- Life Link III will land and take off into the wind.
- Area should be at least 100 feet from the patient. Keep emergency personnel back 100 feet and spectators back 200 feet.



Ground Safety

- Restrict access to the LZ and helicopter.
- **Do not approach the helicopter unless escorted by a crew member.**
- **Approach only from the sides or front of the helicopter, within view of the pilot.**
- Assign one person to protect the tail rotor. Position this person at least 50 feet behind the tail rotor.
- Never approach or depart at the rear of the helicopter.
- Carry equipment in a crouched position. Never hold anything overhead (IV bags, etc.).
- Secure all loose items such as hats, sheets, mattresses and supplies that could get caught in the rotor wash. Don't chase items blown toward the helicopter.
- Protect your eyes from blowing debris. If vision becomes impaired, don't move – crouch down in place.
- Wear hearing protection around a running helicopter.
- Allow Life Link III flight crew to direct loading and unloading of equipment and patients at all times.



Communicating with Life Link III

One pre-hospital care provider or hospital staff member should communicate directly with the Life Link III crew member. Provide radio frequency and call sign of unit coordinating the LZ.

- Provide Life Link III with information that could help identify the LZ (major landmarks/highways). Provide GPS coordinates if available.
- Describe the LZ, including size, shape, slope and surface.
- At night, communicate how the LZ is lit.
- Identify any hazardous materials (petroleum, chemicals, nuclear, etc.) on scene.
- Tell the pilot to "ABORT" or "GO AROUND" if a dangerous situation develops in the vicinity of the LZ during the helicopter approach. The pilot has the ultimate authority to determine whether or not to abort a landing.

The Life Link III pilot will make a low reconnaissance pass before landing. Be prepared to point out landing and take-off hazards and answer the pilot's questions.

Tail Rotor Guard



50' – 75'



TO REQUEST LIFE LINK III, CALL: 1-800-328-1377



CENTRA CARE Health System



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FAIRVIEW



Hennepin County Medical Center



Sacred Heart Hospital
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