NATIONAL AMBULANCE SERVICE

Aero-Medical Talk Group

The Aero-Medical Talk Group is available **only** on the vehicle mounted TETRA terminal and on the Officer hand held units. When an aero-medical helicopter is inbound to your location, you will be instructed to change to the Aero-Medical Talk Group by your Area Dispatch.

1. Press and hold button 8 on your vehicle terminal.

2. Provide speech request on Aero-Medical Talk Group. The Aero-Medical Dispatch Service [AMDS] will answer your speech request. Their call-sign is **November Alpha**

3. The helicopter crew may call the NAS ground resource and request an ASHICE and information on the landing zone.

4. After the helicopter departs, remain at the landing area and on the Aero-Medical channel for five minutes, post departure of the aircraft.

5. Then to revert to your regional talk group, press button 4 on your vehicle TETRA terminal.

6. In the event of the ambulance crew being away from the vehicle, communications with the helicopter can be initiated via the ISSE facility on the hand-held terminal. The AMDS will request the primary clinician's ISSE number and will provide this to the aero-medical service involved in the mission.

EMERGENCY CONTACT WITH AIRCRAFT

Normally the NAS resource should **not** contact the helicopter during landing or take-off phase of the operation. This is in order not to distract the aircrew during these critical phases of the mission.

However should any person on the Aero-Medical Talk Group have a concern regarding safety at the Landing Zone, they must immediately alert the aircrew.

The message for this situation is:

**PAN PAN
This is [insert Call-sign], provide message
[inform aircrew of safety concern],
OVER**

The aircrew will contact the NAS ground resource and confirm the message

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TETRA Hand Held Terminal LAT/LONG Facility

To provide a Latitude / Longitude [LAT/LONG] for your location on hand held TETRA terminal:

1. Press and hold button 3, a menu will appear on the screen.

2. Press the Green button, after a few seconds the LAT/LONG will appear.

3. Provide your LAT/LONG to Aero-Medical Dispatch Service.

Please ensure that you are familiar with the NAS Policies on Aero-Medical Procedures.

NASEAS001 Aero-Medical Talk-Group
NASOP022 Safely Approaching an Aircraft

Both of the above Standard Operating Procedures are available on the National Ambulance Service website, contained within the Policies and Procedures section.

SAFETY AROUND HELICOPTER

1. Park vehicle a minimum of 30 metres away from landing point and remain within the vehicle. Keep all doors closed

2. Wear helmet with visor down, chinstrap fastened and full Personal Protective Clothing / ear plugs, prior to exiting the vehicle

3. Ensure all loose materials on stretcher are secured

4. Never approach helicopter in the landing or take-off phase. The aircrew will go out and meet the personnel on the ground. Wait until clearly called forward by aircrew

5. Do not approach aircraft until called forward by helicopter crew

6. Follow line of approach to helicopter as directed by aircrew and only move vehicle once directed by aircrew

7. Approach with caution if rotor blades still turning

LANDING ZONE PREPARATION

If the patient's condition permits, one of the National Ambulance Service crew should carry out a landing zone check in order to enhance the safety of the landing site:

1. Landing site is 50x 50 strides minimum

2. No overhead or ground-level wires crossing landing area

3. No obvious wires that could impede access to landing area

4. No people or animals at landing area at time of check

5. Check for and remove any loose materials at landing site