

# WILLIAMSTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## AIR AMBULANCE PROTOCOL

**PURPOSE:** To efficiently dispatch the appropriate air ambulance resource as needed.

### **PROTOCOLS:**

- 1. Contact:** The Air Ambulance Communications Center for the various services can be accessed by calling the emergency hotline number: **800-525-6663**
  - A. Life Net of New York (Selkirk, NY near Albany): **800-435-3822**
  - B. Life Star (Hartford, CT and Westfield, MA): **800-221-2569 or 800-437-4378**
  - C. UMASS LifeFlight (Worcester, MA): **800-322-4354 or 508-421-5700**
  - D. DHART (Lebanon, NH and Burlington, VT): **800-650-3222**
  - E. Boston Med Flight (Boston, MA): **800-233-8998**
  
- 2. Required Information:** Communicate the following to the Air Ambulance Dispatch:
  - A. Provide the reason the air ambulance is being requested;
  - B. Provide the Landing Zone (LZ) Coordinates;
    - a. If not specified by requesting agency, consult this guide for possible Landing Lone (LZ) locations with coordinates within a close proximity of event;
  - C. Provide the Landing Zone (LZ) radio frequency of **V-TAC 14, 159.4725 MHz; PL of 156.7 Hz**
    - a. This is Zone 3 (INTEROP), Channel 5 (VTAC14) on the WPD XPR6550 handheld radios.
    - b. It is also available on the VHF LOCAL radio to the operator's right side of the first Dispatch position. If the VHF LOCAL radio is set to its normal resting channel of NAPD RPTR then use the ZnDn button to change Zones and VTAC-14 should appear.
  - D. Provide the current weather conditions for Williamstown;
  - E. Provide the estimated weight of the patient
  
- 3. Air Ambulance Enroute:** Once a service is enroute, advise Williamstown Fire and Police Patrols of:
  - A. Estimated time of arrival (ETA)
  - B. Landing Zone (LZ) location & coordinates given to air ambulance

## POSSIBLE LANDING ZONES

<b>LZ #1: Weston Field, Williams College</b>	<b>Latham Street</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 42.524 West 073 12.236</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>684' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>Trees</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>Building</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>Building</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>Trees</b>

<b>LZ #2: Hotel (Behind Cumberland Farms)</b>	<b>#430 Main Street</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 42.368 West 073 11.313</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>692' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Asphalt</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>Trees</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>Lamp Poles</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>Trees &amp; Building</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>Building</b>

<b>LZ #3: Elementary School – Playing Fields</b>	<b>Between School &amp; Church Streets</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 42.907 West 073 11.824</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>674' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100+' x 100+'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>Trees</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>Trees &amp; Utilities</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>Trees</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>None</b>

<b>LZ #4: SteinerFilm</b>	<b>#987 Simonds Road</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 44.281 West 073 12.814</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>625' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Asphalt</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>Building</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>Building</b>

<b>LZ #5: Town Garage (DPW)</b>	<b>669 Simonds Road</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 43.929 West 073 12.946</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>639' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>85' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Asphalt</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>Building</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>Trees</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>Trees</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>Basketball Hoop</b>

<b>LZ #6: Mt. Greylock regional High School (Soccer Field)</b>	<b>1781 Cold Spring Road</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 40.276 West 073 14.287</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>954' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>Overhead Utilities at Road Edge</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>Trees and Slope Incline</b>

<b>LZ #7: Hart's Garage</b>	<b>#381 New Ashford Road</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 39.054 West 073 14.257</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>900' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>Trees</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>Building</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>Overhead Utilities at Road Edge</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>None</b>

<b>LZ 8: Open Field Across from Waubeeka Golf</b>	<b>Near #137 New Ashford Road</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 39.357 West 073 14.354</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>885' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>Building</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>Overhead Utilities at Road Edge</b>

<b>LZ #9: Sampson's Field</b>	<b>Open Field near #720 New Ashford Road</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 38.579 West 073 13.558</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>980' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>Overhead Utilities 800' East</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>Overhead Utilities at Road Edge</b>

<b>LZ #10: Guiden's Field</b>	<b>Near #990 New Ashford Road</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 38.178 West 073 13.599</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>990' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Grass</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>Overhead Utilities at Road Edge</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>Overhead Utilities at Road Edge</b>

<b>LZ #11: Taconic Trail Summit</b>	<b>NY STATE (Top of Taconic Trail)</b>
<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>North 42 43.391 West 073 16.666</b>
<b>Altitude</b>	<b>2062' MSL</b>
<b>Size</b>	<b>100' x 100'</b>
<b>Surface</b>	<b>Dirt</b>
<b>Plowed</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Lighted</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) North</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) South</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) East</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Obstruction(s) West</b>	<b>None</b>

### **General Information**

The Landing Zone (LZ) is an area intended for the purpose of landing and taking off in the helicopter. The preparation of an LZ is one of the primary functions of the Williamstown Fire Department, or their designee. Proper preparation is essential to the safe operation of an Air Ambulance mission.

If possible, the LZ should be adjacent to the scene to avoid the need for intermediate transport that could prolong a patient's pre-hospital time.

### **Landing Zone Criteria:**

- 75x75 feet in size and free of overhanging obstructions.
- Generally, level. (Slope should not be greater than 5 degrees)
- Surface should be firm. If unpaved, shrubs, brush, grass or weeds should be less than 24 inches in height.

### **Marking the LZ:**

Mark the four corners of the LZ. The use of flares for marking the LZ is now being widely discouraged because of the inherent fire risk. The preferred means of LZ marking is by placement of LZ marking kit (Fire Department has kit). The fifth light is placed at the middle of the border of the LZ on the side that the wind is coming from. Overhead bar lights should be shut off at night to avoid any unnecessary confusion as to the actual touchdown area. Headlights should be extinguished, and parking lights maintained on vehicles

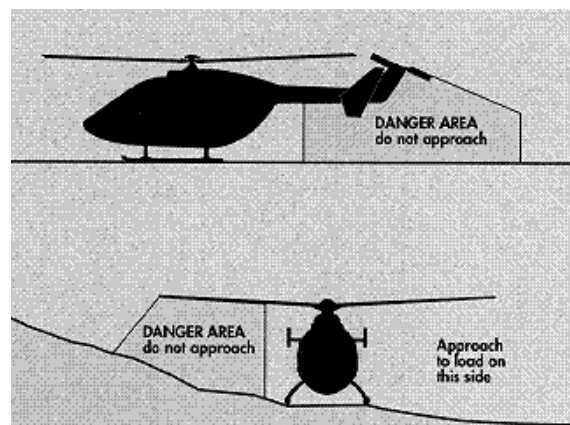
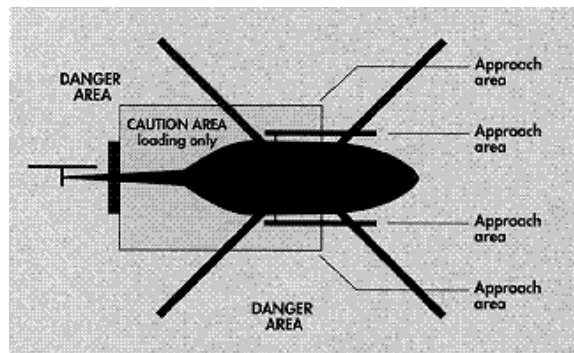
adjacent the touchdown area. If no lighting kit is available, it is permissible to use two vehicles with low-beam headlamps crossing the LZ in an X pattern.

### Radio Contact:

As the Air Ambulance approaches the LZ, they will contact Dispatch on **V-TAC 14, 159.4725 MHz; PL of 156.7 Hz**. The Pilot will call LZ CONTROL and establish contact. Once radio contact is made, it is imperative that they be speaking to the Landing Zone Officer; the **one person** assigned to establish and secure the landing zone. This will most than likely be Fire Department Personnel whom have attended the Medical Flight Ground School, but if Fire personnel are limited, **any one person** may perform this function. When radio contact is made, the LZ Officer should describe the LZ, any hazards in the area, wind direction, condition of the touchdown surface, and security information (*i.e.: crowd is secured and traffic is stopped*). As LZ Officer, pay special attention to looking for overhead wires and reporting their location to the pilot when the helicopter arrives overhead.

### Once the Helicopter has landed:

- Assure that **no one** approaches the helicopter or enters the LZ unless directed to do so by the flight team;
- Never allow a vehicle to drive up to the helicopter;
- If you are directed to approach the helicopter by the flight team, **NEVER approach the rear of the helicopter**; only approach from the front.





**Patient Loading:**

The **flight team** may ask for **four (4) persons** to assist in carrying and loading the Air Ambulance flight stretcher into the aircraft after the patient has been prepared. Follow the flight team's direction when carrying the patient toward the aircraft. Please do not allow more than four (4) people to assist in the carry unless directed to by the flight team. Once the patient has been loaded into the rear of the Air Ambulance helicopter, exit the LZ by the same direction that you used to enter. Never attempt to operate any of the aircraft doors or the stretcher securing device

**Reasons for contacting an Air Ambulance:**

Air Ambulances are generally available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to transport patients directly from accident scenes to the most appropriate medical facility to deal with their injuries. The program has adopted conservative transport criteria to assure that the flight service is utilized for patients who may truly benefit from air medical transport.

**Who can request an Air Ambulance to an accident scene?**

Physicians, Nurses, Paramedics, EMTs, Firefighters, Law Enforcement Officials, Industrial Safety Officers, Ski Patrollers, First Responders.

**Scene Response Criteria****Operational Criteria:**

Ground transportation time to a trauma center exceeding 30 minutes  
 Prolonged extrication  
 Remote location  
 Patient requiring ALS level of care

**Physiologic Criteria:**

Glasgow Coma Score of 13 or less  
 Trauma Score of 14 or less  
 Compensated or decompensated shock  
 Head injury with altered mental status  
 Chest trauma with respiratory distress  
 Penetrating injuries to body cavity  
 Amputations proximal to hand or foot  
 Burns to face or over 15% of body