

## **BLACKWOOD FIRE COMPANY OPERATING GUIDELINE**

### **1.17 INCIDENT RESPONSE - HELICOPTER LANDING ZONES**

1.17.1 The IC shall designate a landing zone (LZ) coordinator and relay this information to Camden County. Unless advised otherwise, the assigned radio frequency will be South Jersey Net, and the Radio designation will be "Gloucester Township LZ".

1.17.2 The LZ coordinator shall locate a suitable LZ, consisting of a flat, hard surface with a minimum area of 110' X 110', clear of overhead obstructions, with clear approach and departure paths, and report same to the appropriate communications center. The LZ should be located as close to the incident scene as possible. The order of preference will be;

- Pre-designated LZ (see attachment 1.17.2)
- Parking lot
- Large Highway\*
- Other areas (athletic field, lawn, undeveloped land, etc).

\* Limited access highways often do not meet the minimum size requirements and/or have other obstructions which can impede the approach/departure of the helicopter. Traffic considerations are also a concern. If in doubt, utilize a pre-designated LZ off the highway.

1.17.3 If time permits, the LZ coordinator should assign crew member(s) to walk the landing area, utilizing handlights at night, to ensure the area is free of debris or other hazards. Members should also examine the ground and overhead area for hazards/obstructions, and report same to the LZ coordinator. White or clear apparatus lights and scene lighting may be utilized to assist in the recon of the LZ, however, all white or clear lights must be turned off once the helicopter is overhead.

1.17.4 The preferred method for marking the LZ is the placement of a lighted flare at each corner. Liteboxes fitted with a cone attachment or traffic cones may be used in lieu of flares when necessary, however, NO

spotlights or other clear, bright lights will be directed toward the helicopter.

1.17.5 After the LZ has been inspected and properly marked, the LZ coordinator should deploy members around all four sides of the LZ, a minimum of 50' from the perimeter, to prevent unauthorized entry. All members near the LZ shall use eye protection. Bystanders should be advised of the hazards of the helicopter rotor wash, and should be prohibited from using cameras with flash attachments or video lights in proximity to the helicopter.

1.17.6 When requested, the LZ coordinator will provide the flight crew with a Landing Zone brief\*. The brief should begin with the LZ location in relation to an identifiable landmark, visible from the sky (i.e. the LZ is set up 2 blocks west of the crash scene). The briefing should also include the following information:

- Marking equipment (flares, cones)
- Area type (roadway, parking lot, field)
- Surface type (asphalt, dirt, grass)
- Size (minimum 110' x 110')
- Immediate hazards (treeline, uneven terrain, telephone poles, signs, wires, other vertical protrusions, etc...)
- Area hazards (items farther away from the LZ but in the helicopters approach/departure path, such as high tension lines, cell phone towers, water towers, etc...)

When possible, consider parking apparatus with emergency lights activated directly under and in-line with wires or high tension lines not visible to the helicopter. Announce this information during the LZ brief.

\*Sample LZ Description: "Southstar from Gloucester Township LZ. The LZ is located on the football field to the rear of the Highland High School, which is just west of the crash scene on Blackwood-Clementon Road. The LZ is on a firm, level, grass field, 250' X 250'. To the north is a 10' high fence, to the east is a treeline, to the south is a 10' high fence, and to the west is a 20' high goalpost. There are high tension

lines running east to west, approximately 2 tenths of a mile to the north of the LZ. Engine 841 is parked under the high tension lines with its' overhead lights activated.“

- 1.17.7 Upon approach of the helicopter, the LZ coordinator shall confirm visual sighting and, if necessary, guide the pilot to the LZ utilizing pilots' right, pilots' left and/or clock coordinates (i.e. the LZ is to your right, at the 1 o'clock position).
- 1.17.8 Upon arrival over the LZ, the flight crew will circle the area to conduct a high recon, followed by a low recon. The helicopter will then begin the final approach.
- 1.17.9 LZ communications to the helicopter shall be made by the LZ coordinator only. When the helicopter is on final approach, no radio communications shall be made (sterile cockpit). The only exception is to communicate an imminent danger to the helicopter, flight crew, and/or ground personnel. Said communication may be transmitted by any ground personnel, and should be prefaced with the words, "ABORT, ABORT, ABORT."
- 1.17.10 The LZ coordinator will notify the appropriate communications center once the helicopter is safely on the ground.
- 1.17.11 After the helicopter has landed, the flight crew will initiate the shutdown procedure (approximately one minute). A member of the flight crew will then disembark the helicopter and approach the ground crew. NO member shall approach the helicopter without specific instruction from the flight crew. Any approach must be made within the pilot's view. (See Attachment 1.17.1 on helicopter approach).
- 1.17.12 If the presence of the flight crew is requested at the scene by EMS personnel, the FD will coordinate ground transportation.
- 1.17.13 Loading of the patient in the helicopter will be coordinated by the flight crew. FD personnel will assist as necessary, but will not approach the helicopter unless authorized by the flight crew.

- 1.17.14 As the helicopter prepares to depart, the LZ should be secured in the same manner as prior to landing, IAW OG# 1.17.5. Radio silence (sterile cockpit) shall be employed until the helicopter is safely off the ground and away from the LZ.
- 1.17.15 The appropriate communication center shall be notified once the helicopter has safely departed, and the LZ terminated.

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Attachment 1.17.2 Helicopter Landing Zones

<b>1</b>	<b>Gloucester Twp School</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Grand and High Streets</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>St Judes Church (Soccer Field)</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Lincoln and Harrison Aves (Baseball Field)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Blackwood Elementary School</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Blackwood Plaza (Parking lot of Sam's Bar and Grill)</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Highland High School</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>C. W. Lewis Middle School</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Between Quail Ridge and Cherrywood Apts (Little Gloucester Rd)</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>College Dr and Little Gloucester Rd (Autumn Ridge)</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>College Dr and Little Gloucester Rd (Camden County College)</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Autumn Ridge Apts (Community Center Parking Lot)</b>

<b>13</b>	<b>Plaza Drive (Parking Rear of the Stone Grill)</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Blackwood-Clementon and Cedar Ln. (Laurel Hill Bible Church)</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>End of Cedar Ln. To the rear of Huntington Mews Apts</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Davistown Rd at Rt. 42 (State St Baseball Field)</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Blackwood-Clementon Rd at Bethel Christian Center</b>