

WESTERN REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM, INC.

Scene Response Helicopter Utilization Guidelines

1) Consider EMS Helicopter Transport:

a. For patients who meet the WREMS Trauma Triage Guidelines, and when helicopter transport will significantly reduce the arrival time at the Trauma Center or reduce arrival time to less than 30 minutes.

OR

b. To the closest appropriate facility for any patient who requires a level of care not readily available from the local EMS agency AND can be provided by the helicopter significantly sooner than patient transported by ground to the closest hospital.

OR

c. Special circumstances including:

Mass Casualty Incidents
Equipment and / or personnel
Safer / more effective transport
Facilitate rescue / extrication

2) Patient transport should not be delayed waiting for a helicopter unless directed by Medical Command.

3) Helicopter Services should be;

a. Alerted to a “stand by” status by any Dispatcher, EMS, Fire or Police authority, as soon as a potential need is identified.

b. Requested by the on-scene prehospital care provider with the highest level of training, or in the absence of EMS personnel, the decision will be made by the scene incident commander.

c. Patients considered for helicopter transport should have some viable signs of life.