

SAEMS PREHOSPITAL PROTOCOLS

AIR MEDICAL SERVICES, INDICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY USE

- I. AIR TRANSPORTATION TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN EVALUATION OF PATIENT(S) AND SCENE CIRCUMSTANCES FINDS:
 - A. Weather, location, road or traffic conditions would prolong patient's ground transport time to the closest appropriate care facility and would pose a threat to the patient's survival and/or recovery
 - B. Use of local ground transport team would leave the local area without adequate EMS coverage
 - C. Patients meeting specialty triage criteria or whose condition presents a high probability for complications or deterioration during an extended ground transport.

II. AIR MEDICAL HELICOPTER SCENE DISPATCH IN S.E. ARIZONA

The Tucson MEDS system has real time knowledge regarding location and availability of all air medical helicopters servicing the S.E. Arizona region, and therefore is the most appropriate dispatching agency. Requests may come from: Pre-hospital EMS, Search and Rescue teams, Law Enforcement, Forest Services, etc.

AIR MEDICAL DISPATCH- PROCEDURES

1. All scene/911 requests for air medical transport shall be routed through Tucson Meds Control: 1-877- MEDS-TUC (877-633-7882 or 520-791-4678). If unable to contact Meds Control, Phoenix EMSCOM may be reached at: 1-800-AIR-MEDS (1-800-247-6337).
2. MEDS control shall determine the closest available aircraft and call that company's dispatch center.
3. MEDS will ascertain that their aircraft is actually available and if so will then transfer the request directly to them.
4. If the aircraft is not available for any reason, MEDS will then contact the next closest aircraft.
5. Once MEDS has verified availability, the call will then be the responsibility of the responding air medical service and the requesting agency/dispatch center. All communications will then be handled by the requesting agency/dispatch center and the responding air medical service. MEDS will only relay information if there are issues with communications.
6. All air medical services are required to update their aircraft(s) status and/or availability with MEDS.
7. Any air medical service which receives a direct call requesting a scene response, shall contact Tucson MEDS Control to verify that they are the closest responding service.

III. Interfacility Transports and Specialty Team Members:

Hospitals and clinics will follow their individual policies and procedures for requests for air medical transport.

IV. Air Medical procedures in the Tucson area

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1. When entering Tucson air space all incoming aircraft shall notify Tucson MEDS Control of their destination and ETA. Tucson MEDS will then advise the receiving facility of the inbound aircraft, and provide a channel for telemetry.
2. All aircraft shall use the air to air frequency upon arrival and departure to notify any other aircraft that maybe in the area.
3. All aircraft operating in the region should have a tail identification system installed to allow Tucson Meds Control to quickly locate each aircraft.