

GLOSSARY



LANDING ZONE SAFETY ORGANIZATION

Safety Through Knowledge

Term	Definition
Approach Path/Departure path	The straight line path followed by an aircraft as it is landing or taking off.
Cabin	The inside of a helicopter, behind the cockpit, where passengers and cargo are carried.
Cardinal directions	The four cardinal directions, or cardinal points, are the directions north, east, south, and west, commonly denoted by their initials N, E, S, and W.
Chemical Light Sticks	Plastic tubes that need to be bent in order to break a smaller tube inside, and when broken will emit bright light.
Cockpit	The area of a helicopter that contains flight instruments on an instrument panel and the controls that enable the pilot to fly the helicopter.
Downed Helicopter	A helicopter that has crashed or landed due to a malfunction.
Downwash	Downwash is the fast movement of air below the helicopter that spreads outward in all directions at high speeds.
Downwind	In the same direction in which the wind is blowing.
F.O.D.	Foreign Object Debris. Could be anything from small rocks to large plywood sheets. Anything the helicopter is capable of blowing or moving around with its downwash.
High Reconnaissance	The action a pilot takes when making a landing at an unfamiliar landing zone. The pilot will circle around it as many times as needed to perform a "High Reconnaissance" in order to obtain information about the landing zone.
Hot Loading	The loading or unloading of patients or personnel while the helicopter engine is still running and the blades are still spinning.
Jet A	A type of aviation fuel used in aircraft with gas-turbine engines. Jet A is the most commonly used fuel for EMS helicopters.
Landing Zone (LZ)	An area where a helicopter can land.
Lead Acid Battery	A lead acid battery is a secondary cell, meaning that it is rechargeable. Lead acid batteries are commonly used in cars, trucks, and helicopters.
Low hover/ hover	When the helicopter is 3 to 5 feet off the ground. See also <i>aircraft taxi</i>
NiCad Battery	Nickel-Cadmium Battery. A type of rechargeable battery found in some helicopters.
Night Vision Goggles	Optoelectric helmet-mounted goggles that produce enhanced night vision for the pilot and medical crews through light amplification.
Personal Protective Equipment	Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection.
Rotor Blade	A rotary wing on the helicopter that spins at high speed to produce lift and control the helicopter. Oftentimes referred to as "blades".
Stretchers	Wheeled medical bed used to transport patients.
Taxiing/taxi	Used to define when a helicopter is moving over the surface of the ground. This can be in a hover with skid gear or rolling if the helicopter has wheels.
Turbine Engine	A gas-turbine engine is a continuous combustion engine that converts expanding exhaust gas to rotational power by spinning a turbine wheel connected to a drive shaft. These engines are used in all EMS helicopters in the United States.
Wind Direction	The direction that the wind is coming from.
Wind Turbine	A wind turbine is a device that converts kinetic energy from wind into electrical energy.