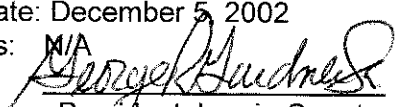


**LORAIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guidelines**

Command - Air Ambulance Procedure	SOG: 010 Effective Date: December 5, 2002 Supersedes: N/A Approved:  President, Lorain County Fire Chiefs Association Page 1 of 2
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.10 PURPOSE

To define how the on-scene Incident Command (IC) should request an Air Ambulance to the scene of an emergency incident. With the mixture of public fire, EMS, and private EMS systems in Lorain County, this procedure will identify a county-wide standard operating guideline.

.20 DIVISIONS AFFECTED

All Lorain County fire departments
All Public and Private EMS agencies.
All Law Enforcement Agencies
Lorain County 9-1-1
Lorain County EMA

.30 RESPONSIBILITY

- .31 First responsibility is that the proper ICS/IMS has been established on scene of the emergency incident.
- .32 Each fire and EMS department (public or private) must ensure that their personnel are adequately trained and comply with this guideline.

.40 PROCEDURE

- .41 The authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall establish Command.
- .42 Fire/EMS department shall evaluate patient(s) condition to determine if an air ambulance(s) is required and level of care. Ultimately, the patient care decisions will be the responsibility of the most qualified, highest trained EMS provider.
 - a. Suspected serious trauma with any of the following conditions to a patient who will require an extrication time of longer than 15-20 minutes:
unsecured airway, unconsciousness, hypotension with tachycardia,
unable to obtain venous access.

- b. Serious injury or illness in a patient who is not easily accessible to land vehicles, but where an adequate clearing for helicopter landing is nearby.
 - c. Scenes of numerous seriously-injured patients.
- .43 The Incident Commander shall be responsible for requesting all air ambulance(s). This request shall include:
- a. Identification of safe landing zones (LZ).
 - b. Determination of the on-scene radio frequency to be used.
 - c. Determination of how the air ambulance(s) will be dispatched.
 - d. Obtaining an ETA for the air ambulance.
- .44 If there will be a long delay (at the discretion of the most qualified, highest trained EMS provider) before an air ambulance can arrive on scene, it is recommended that the patient(s) be ground transported to the nearest hospital. The air ambulance should then be diverted to the receiving hospital through Incident Command.
- .45 Transfer of care.
- a. Until the patient becomes the full responsibility of the flight crew and/or flight physician, the on-line physician is responsible.
 - b. Once care of the patient is turned over to the air ambulance team, patient care responsibility rests with the flight crew and their Medical Control and/or flight physician.
 - c. When transferring care to the air ambulance, the EMT-in-charge of patient care has the option to request a destination facility through Incident Command.