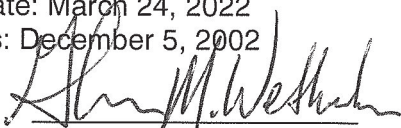


**LORAIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Standard Operating Guidelines**

Command - Air Ambulance Procedure	<p>SOG: 010 Effective Date: March 24, 2022 Supercedes: December 5, 2002</p> <p>Approved:  President, Lorain County Fire Chiefs Association</p> <p>Page 1 of 2</p>
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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 Fire authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) shall establish Command.
- .42 If Fire and EMS, (District or Private), are separate agencies, a unified Command should be considered when possible.
- .43 Fire/EMS or District/Private EMS department shall evaluate patient(s) condition to determine if an air ambulance(s) is required and level of care. Ideally, the patient care decisions will be the responsibility of the most qualified, highest trained EMS provider, However, the ultimate decision to request and arrange for an Air Ambulance, based on all circumstances of the incident is that of Incident Command.

- a. Suspected or confirmed 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.
- .44 The Incident Commander shall be responsible for requesting all air ambulance(s). This request shall include:
- a. A request to dispatch to make the call.
  - b. Dispatch will advise Incident Commander if Aircraft are flying, radio frequency to be utilized, and an ETA

(When new radio system is up and operating, a common frequency will be determined and programmed into all Fire and EMS, and air medical provider radios)

- c. Incident Command shall make arrangements to provide the following information directly to Aircraft or Flight Communications Office. (FCO)
    - 1. Location and briefing of safe landing zones (LZ).
    - 2. Patient information
- .45 If there will be a long delay for an air ambulance to arrive on scene, it is recommended that the patient(s) be ground transported to the nearest hospital. (At the discretion of the most qualified, highest trained EMS provider, and Incident Commander) The air ambulance should then be diverted to the receiving hospital through Incident Command.
- .46 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, Incident Command shall confirm the patient's destination with flight crew.