



# **SENECA COUNTY**

## **Emergency Services**



Standard Administrative Guideline

**Subject: Air Ambulance Requests**

**Reference Number: 10**

**Effective Date: 9-2008**

**Review Date: Annually: 2-2020**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to define the rules for calling an air ambulance to the scene of an incident or the intercept of an air ambulance at a receiving hospital.

**Background:**

Rotary wing transport to a trauma center has shown to increase survivability in trauma, cardiac and basically all facets of emergency care in rural areas that require long transport times. Patients benefit from rapid transport to specialty resource centers. The State of Ohio Division of EMS clearly defines in ORC 4765.01 the need for rapid transportation to a trauma center.

**Policy & Procedure**

**APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES:**

- A: In this document, 'Life Flight' is used as a synonymous term for any rapid air medical transport system. The use of the name 'Life Flight' does not in any way imply that any given air transport service is to be used.
- 1) The squad should notify Dispatch as soon as it is known of the potential need for life flight services. The squad may call life flight to the scene, if appropriate.
  - 2) If life flight has not arrived by the time the patient(s) are ready for transport, the decision to wait or divert to the hospital should be based on which choice will bring the patient and doctor together in the least amount of time.

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**For Example:** If life flight is 5 minutes from the scene, and the ground transport to the hospital is 15 minutes, then wait for flight to get to the scene. If flight is ten minutes from the scene and ground transport time to the hospital is less than 10 minutes, divert life flight to the hospital and transport the patient to the hospital.

**At the Hospital:** If life flight is awaiting the ground squad at the hospital and the patient is stable or can easily be stabilized without entering the ED, and the patient needs the services of a trauma center, the patient may proceed directly into life flight for immediate transport. **MEDICAL CONTROL MUST BE NOTIFIED AND GIVE THE SQUAD PERMISSION TO BYPASS THE ED.** If the patient is too unstable for further transport, the patient is to be brought into the ED without delay. **Mercy Hospital of Tiffin will NOT give you permission to bypass their ED in MOST cases. YOU MUST RECEIVE A VERBAL ORDER BY RADIO IN ORDER TO BYPASS THE ER – DOCUMENT WHO GAVE THE ORDER (Must be a physician).**

- B. **INITIATING AN AIR AMBULANCE:** anytime an air ambulance is needed, the dispatcher should make this contact for the squad. The squad should request the dispatcher to:
1. Ascertain if “Life Flight” is available for this scene call, and
  2. If available, what is their ETA to the scene?
- C. **COMMUNICATING DIRECT WITH LIFE FLIGHT:** Direct communications can be made with air ambulances by switching to ‘AIR AMBULANCE.’ On any squad or fire department mobile or portable. The Seneca County Air Ambulance frequency is currently 463.025mhz with NO PL TONE.
- A) Alternate Method of communicating directly with the helicopter
1. When the helicopter is in sight, contact them utilizing the VHF radio on the *Hear 340* channel.
- D. 4) **“LIFE FLIGHT” GROUND UNITS:** Mobile life ground units should not be utilized by SCEMS. There is no reason to wait on scene when a ground transport can be made to the closest receiving hospital. It is acceptable to request a mobile intensive care unit to proceed to the receiving hospital to meet you; contact the receiving facility to arrange for MICU transport.

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