



**Air Care & Mobile Care
513-584-CARE (2273)**

Operation Safe Path **Landing Zone Levels Guidelines**

Level 1

- Airports and hospital helipads. Offers the highest level of safety possible for all air medical operations.
 - Landing zones were subject to FAA guidelines when designed
 - Operations – Level 1
 - Day & night, with or without night vision goggle(NVG) use
 - With or without direct ground to air communications at the pilots discretions
 - Subject to rules of property owner/operator
 - Typically unlimited for emergency work

Level 2

- Pre-identified landing zones which have been chosen by fire/EMS departments, inspected by an Air Care pilot and registered in Air Care database. Offers the highest safety margin for air medical operations outside of airports and hospital helipads.
 - Meets all specifications of Level 3 landing zone plus the following:
 - Inspection may include a fly-over, landing, ground inspection, and/or radio testing
 - Yearly inspections as needed by Air Care
 - Regular/monthly inspections by sponsoring fire/EMS agency with communication to Air Care with any changes
 - Ideally situated on fire/EMS department property or adjacent to property
 - Lighting and/or wind direction device may be required prior to registration as a level-2 landing zone. Inspection will determine needs.
 - Able to be utilized by neighboring fire/EMS departments for rendezvous with air medical helicopter to shorten patient's transport distance/time
 - Operations – Level 2
 - Day & night, with or without night vision goggle (NVG) use at discretion of pilot
 - Communication between ground and air is required but may be indirect, through dispatch/telephone, if direct communication is impossible and at the discretion of the pilot
 - Rendezvous logistics with adjacent fire/EMS department will be managed solely by ground operations

Level 3

- Pre-designated landing zones, which have been chosen by fire/EMS departments and listed in Air Care database. Generally offers a higher level of safety than landing zones at accident scenes.
 - Meets all specifications of Level 4 landing zone plus the following:
 - Landing zone is chosen for easy road access, clearance from ground and air obstructions, minimal chance for changes in obstructions.
 - Sponsoring fire/EMS department has completed an initial ground level inspection of the landing zone. A landing zone description will be submitted to and accepted by Air Care with all appropriate descriptions completed on form.
 - Regular inspections by sponsoring fire/EMS agency with communication to Air Care with any changes
 - Operations – Level 3
 - Day flights, night landings only with NVG capability
 - Communication between ground and air is required but may be indirect, through dispatch/telephone, if direct communication is impossible and at the discretion of the pilot
 - May be used for rendezvous between Air Care and sponsoring fire/EMS agency

Level 4

- Landing zones at accident scenes that do not meet Level 1, 2, or 3 requirements above. Provide the lowest level of safety for air medical operations. Can be accomplished safely with a higher level of diligence by the flight crew & landing zone commander.
 - *Same as LZ training requirements*
 - Minimum 100' by 100' (larger at night)
 - Level
 - Clear of ground and air obstructions
 - Etc.
 - Operations – Level 4
 - Day flights, night landings only with NVG capability
 - Communication between ground and air is required but may be indirect, through dispatch/telephone, if direct communication is impossible and at the discretion of the pilot
 - May be used for rendezvous between Air Care and sponsoring fire/EMS agency

Level 5

- Landing zones that do not meet the minimum established requirements of a Level 4 landing zone. Lowest safety margin and highest likelihood of landing refusal by air medical crew.
 - Expect pilot to refuse landing and recommend alternative level 4 landing zone
 - Lack of communication alone can change a Level 4 landing zone into a Level 5
 - All level 5 landings will be reviewed by the Air Care Safety Committee