



ornge

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Commitment to Safety

At Ornge, we are committed to the safety of patients, crews, emergency first responders and members of the public.

This brochure includes information on helicopter safety, communications and on scene safety procedures. For more detailed information, please visit www.ornge.ca/aircraftsafety.

Selecting a Landing Zone

When selecting a landing zone, please ensure:

- + the landing zone is clear of obstacles such as wires, trees, stumps, vehicles or loose debris;
- + the landing zone is on a stable surface such as concrete, asphalt, packed gravel or grass, and the landing area is as flat as possible;
- + you do not use flares or other objects to outline the landing zone;
- + all loose or unattended equipment is secured or put away until directed by a member of the flight crew.

Please communicate any obstacles within a 360 degree radius to the flight crew prior to landing.



150'/45m

Securing a Landing Zone

When securing a landing zone, please:

- + place a minimum of two vehicles, beyond each end of the designated area to prevent access to other vehicles;
- + ensure vehicles and personnel are clear from the landing zone (radius of 150') prior to arrival, departure and at any indication (verbal/physical) from the flight crew.

Night Landings

Orange helicopters will only respond to heliports, airports and company approved landing sites at night.

Wind/HAZMAT

Arrivals and departures will be made into the wind wherever possible. Wind direction should be considered when selecting a landing zone.

Always ensure the flight crew or Ornge's Operations Control Centre is notified as to the nature of any HAZMAT dangers prior to landing. When hazardous materials are present, the landing zone should be located **UPWIND**. Rotor downwash could spread hazardous materials over 100 metres. Avoid choosing low lying areas as vapours collect in low terrain.

Personal Protective Equipment

During arrival and departure, it is important to ensure that all personal protective equipment is worn (eye/hearing protection, helmet, jacket and pants).



Approaching the Helicopter

Do not enter the landing zone until you receive a positive indication from the pilot that it is safe to approach.

ONLY APPROACH the helicopter with an Ornge escort. You must stay with your Ornge escort at all times.

Always approach the helicopter at an angle at which you are able to make positive eye contact with the pilot. Never approach the aircraft from the back.

If there is any doubt as to whether it is safe to approach the aircraft, **DO NOT APPROACH.**

If you are on uneven ground, approach or depart from the downhill side as it has the most clearance from the rotors.

Communications

When requesting an on scene response, it is important to provide an accurate description of the landing zone in relation to the scene location.

GPS coordinates are the preferred method of identifying your site and should be used with the methods below:

+ highway numbers, distances to nearby towns, compass directions to the scene from landmarks, emergency service vehicle Automatic Vehicle Locators.

Someone not involved in patient care (if available) should be assigned to communicate with the air ambulance crew directly using the Provincial Common Frequency (P-COM).

Information from the scene can also be relayed from the scene to the Central Ambulance Communications Centre, which has the ability to contact the crew.

Connect With Us

Ornge takes the safety of its patients, crews and partners seriously.

For any questions about landing zone safety, creating a heliport or other, our Aviation Safety team can be reached at aviationsafety@ornge.ca, helipadsupport@ornge.ca or by calling 647-428-2005.

A Landing Zone Safety video, brochures and more information is available for viewing on our website.

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