

# Landing Zone Selection and Preparation

Although a helicopter allows us to land virtually anywhere, there are some important considerations when selecting and preparing a landing zone (LZ).

Whenever possible, someone not involved in patient care should be designated to keep observers at a safe distance from the aircraft, and in particular, from the vicinity of the tail rotor.

A helicopter is capable of landing and taking off vertically depending on load and local conditions. It is preferred however, to have an angled approach / departure path allowing for some forward speed in and out of the area.

Use the following guidelines when selecting and preparing a Landing Zone:

- 80' x 80' area (day) 100' x 100' (night)
- Area should be relatively level and clear of debris and loose objects.
- Ensure there are no overhead wires or obstacles in the LZ. Any known hazards near the LZ or along the approach path should be reported to the flight crew.
- Emergency flashing lights make it easier to identify the LZ especially at night, but do not allow anyone to shine lights at the landing or departing aircraft. Such lighting may temporarily blind the pilot and crew.
- The LZ can be marked at night with vehicle headlights or flares. If flares are used, be aware of attendant fire hazards.