



To: NW Geographic Area Dispatch Centers

From: Ted Pierce, Acting NWCC Center Manager

RE: Short-Haul Extraction Helicopter Use, Placement, and Ordering Procedures

Discussion

Unless otherwise specified, in the NW Geographic Area the term “short-haul helicopter” refers to an Interagency approved Type 3 helicopter and crew having the specialized capability for evacuating injured personnel from a remote site via a specialized line attached to the helicopter’s airframe. Available helicopters may vary in number, make and model of aircraft. In all cases, a helicopter’s principle mission will be firefighting/initial attack. Short-haul is an additional crew and aircraft capability that can be utilized as needed.

Aircraft Positioning

Given that firefighting is the principle mission, short-haul helicopters will be assigned to active incidents or pre-positioned at a local unit in support of initial attack. Within this specification, the helicopters will be intentionally assigned so that short-haul capability can be readily available across a broad expanse of the Geographic Area, ideally in those areas where extraction potential is perceived to be greatest. Maps depicting current short-haul helicopter locations and 100-mile effective response circles can be found online:

- NWCC Situation Page Interactive [Current Situation Map](#); and
- NW MAC Page [Short-Haul Extraction Helicopter Map](#).

Ordering a Short-Haul Helicopter for Emergency Medevac

- Refer to online maps for the short-haul helicopter within effective range of or nearest your incident.
- Each helicopter location has an associated table that will provide the helicopter tail number and the name and phone number of the hosting dispatch center. Ordering Units may order a short-haul helicopter by placing a call direct to the hosting dispatch center. **Ordering Units or Incidents must supply the necessary information to facilitate an emergency response.** At a minimum, include the following items, which are found on the standard aircraft dispatch card:
 - Incident Name
 - Incident Air-to-Air frequency
 - Incident air-to-ground frequency
 - Incident geographic location and/or latitude/longitude
 - Incident Ground Contact
 - Other aircraft on the incident
 - Hazards if known



- **A request for short-haul will be processed by the host dispatch center or hosting IMT as a priority emergency response.**
- **The host dispatch center will contact NWCC (503-808-2720) whenever a short-haul mission is launched and follow-up with a “commit” message to all NW Dispatch Centers.**
- **If hosting IMT utilizes the short-haul aircraft for a medical emergency the IMT will notify the hosting dispatch center to ensure proper notifications are made.**
- **NWCC will notify all NW Dispatch Centers and update the appropriate web products in a timely manner whenever there is a short-haul resource status or location change.**

Flight Hours and Response Times

Short-haul extraction can occur only during daylight flight hours, during which an estimated 30 minute response time is observed. **Night operations are not possible.** However, orders can be placed at night to facilitate an aircraft launch at the earliest possible time.

IMPORTANT!

If your incident is NOT within the 100-mile effective range of a short-haul helicopter or the short-haul helicopter is not available, still consider requesting the next closest short-haul helicopter. Although the aircraft may need to stop and refuel enroute, it may still be the quickest response alternative or a prudent contingency.

Consider other alternatives, such as calling 9-1-1, when short-haul aircraft are not available. Local County, commercial, National Guard, or other DOD assets may provide more timely patient evacuation and subsequent care. Reference the [2016 Emergency Helicopter Extraction Source List](#) for additional information on alternate extraction options and how to order.

Short-haul ordering procedures are not valid for use with National Guard medevac or other non-Interagency extraction and hoist resources. **If National Guard aircraft are activated, letters addressing extraction procedures or medevac ordering will be issued and posted to the NWCC NW MAC webpage** under the [Emergency Medical Evacuation](#) heading.

For questions regarding the coordination of short-haul ordering or mobilization, please contact Ted Pierce (tedepierce@fs.fed.us) at 503-808-2722. For questions on management of interagency short-haul helicopters or aircraft capability, please contact Dave Glose (dglose@fs.fed.us) at 541-504-7274.