Flying Safely At Night

Darkness, simply darkness, is a flight risk for an EMS helicopter. In fact, a large percentage of EMS helicopter crashes occur at night. Air Link wants to shed some light on this topic and share what occurs during our night operations. We also have some great tips for you that will assist us with our night missions.

What Air Link is Doing

- Air Link pilots are required to have 200 hours of night flying prior to applying to be a Med-Trans pilot.
- Before flying, Air Link pilots do a careful weather check, paying close attention to surrounding areas.
- Air Link utilizes night vision goggles. The pilot and medical crew members are required to use goggles at night.
- Air Link has yearly training on night vision goggles and night operations.
- Air Link has scene and anti-collision lights on the aircraft.
- Air Link values the clear communication between the pilot, medical crew, and ground crews.

What You Can Do

If your landing zone (LZ) is at a hospital:

- Assure the LZ is properly lit, if possible.
- Assure the LZ is clear of snow and debris, and does not have a slick surface.
- Display a windsock.

On the scene:

- Prior to the helicopter's arrival, please turn on all emergency lights so we can spot you. The pilot may have you turn some lights down upon our approach to the scene.
- Point headlights in the direction of LZ.
- Point out all obstacles via radio communication to the pilot.
- Inform dispatch of as much scene information as possible.

NEVER point lights up at the helicopter.

We appreciate all you do to keep us all safe!

Your Air Link Flight Team

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