



as the *Blades* TURN

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Winter, What Winter?

Talk about some weird weather patterns! I cannot believe that it is already spring when it was never actually winter. Our hearts are breaking for all of those affected by the fires in our area. No doubt we will feel the ripple of this tragedy for many years to come. If we can help your service in some way, please do not hesitate to reach out. The DRY weather patterns have us all anxious for the rest of the year. It's Nebraska, though; weather often changes in a minute and hopefully it changes to WET!

Since we last talked, we have worked hard at improving communications with our mentor groups, upping our social media presence, and, always, training! We are excited about new Hamilton T1 ventilators and have been devoting our downtime to learning all the ins and outs before we start using them in April. We have plans to add more specialized equipment this year; stay tuned!

If you are not sure who your Air Link contact is, please reach out to me and I will get you sorted out. If there is new leadership in your department, please let us know! We want you to have a point of contact to ensure timely patient follow-up, provide training for your departments, and help in putting a name to a face.



Landing Zone (LZ) Training: Making it More Consistent and Accessible

Flight crew members had the privilege of attending the Air Medical Transport Conference (AMTC) last fall in Omaha. This is always a great way for us to network, get our hands on new equipment, see other aircraft, and attend workshops and presentations that help us step up our game clinically.

One of the main things the team brought back was from a particular presentation on LZ training that highlighted inconsistencies in training among people charged with safely establishing unsecured landing zones. Specifically, there are inconsistencies in standards across agencies/states/the nation, irregular trainings with limited fly-ins, and training that is often missed or never delivered. An unsecured, unverified helicopter landing zone is a major safety risk. Your crew knowing how to secure a landing zone is paramount to a safe and successful mission.

Sensing the gaps in training and the overlap of services in certain areas, the Air Medical Operations Association (AMOA) developed a Air Medical Landing Zone Safety video as a standardized starting point for services to use.

The eight-minute landing zone video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwH1YVwhgyc>. It is well worth the watch!

We have also revamped the PowerPoint used for department fly-in landing zone trainings. As we all know, even the best planned trainings can go sideways. Volunteer crew members are difficult to get together. You set a date and then the aircraft gets a flight and cannot make it...and remember what I said about Nebraska weather?

We want you to have this PowerPoint so you can include it in orientation of new members and have regular access. You may not use these skills for months, but that does not mean you can be complacent; in a moment you will be expected to perform, and perform well. Please review the PowerPoint and then reach out to our crew to get your hands-on training scheduled.

As always, we are also happy to cover additional topics for your crew; airway management, stroke, heart attack, tourniquets, securing c-spine, BLS code management, and radio communications have all been well received by services in the past!

