

Safety First ALWAYS

Its 2 a.m. and the sound of your pager or radio wakes you up. You jolt awake when the voice says that it's a motor vehicle crash with multiple occupants ejected. In an instant, you have gone from deepest sleep to responding to something potentially horrific. You hear that the helicopter has been requested. On your way to the call, take a few big deep breaths, think, and remember these three acronyms.

“WHY THINK”

Wires: Always assume there are wires present on the ground and in the air

Hazards: Are present at every scene

Yield: To bystanders and assume that they do not see you

Tail rotor: Keep people away

Help: Know when to call for extra help

Index of suspicion remains high: always assume the worst has happened and could happen

NO! Tell yourself NO, I cannot enter the unsafe scene!

Know a way out

“PENMAN”

Personal and personnel safety

Environmental hazards

Number of victims

Mechanism of injury or nature of illness

Additional resources

Need for outside agencies

“WHAT”

WHAT four questions can we ask ourselves for each task?

- 1) What is the worst thing that can happen with this task?
- 2) Hazards I need to control/eliminate for this task?
- 3) Actions I will take to keep myself safe?
- 4) Tools I need to do this task safely?

AIR LINK
REGIONAL WEST

