Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section Safety	**Referral No.** S-15	**Subject:** Helicopter Landing Zone Safety	**Date Issued** 11/02	**Date Revised** 3/08

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for safe landing zone set up and function.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Incident Commander
  - The incident commander shall designate a landing zone coordinator to set up the landing zone and make contact with the pilot.
  - The landing zone coordinator will contact with the helicopter crew as they disembark.
  - The landing zone coordinator will wear a reflective safety vest and anyone helping him will also wear a safety vest.
- Personnel
  - All personnel will follow the directions of the landing zone coordinator when around the landing zone.

Guidelines:

- Minimum landing zone will be 100 X 100 feet
- Area should be reasonably level terrain
- Area should be free of loose debris (litter, corn stubble, any loose material)
- Order of preference for landing zones: concrete, asphalt, grass, gravel, snow, dirt
- Provide wind direction and speed (use banner tape on cone or pole to indicate wind direction
- **DO NOT** approach the helicopter without helicopter crew permission
- **NEVER** approach the tail of the helicopter
- Protect eyes from flying debris and dust as helicopter lands and takes off
- If asked to help move patient to the helicopter, follow all flight crew directions
- Do not raise arms or IV poles over head while approaching helicopter while blades are turning
- Secure all linen and loose objects
- Do not allow spectators to approach the helicopter and keep all spectators back at least 200 feet.
- **DO NOT slam doors**. The crew will close the doors if you are not familiar with them.
- Night landing zone will be marked with landing zone strobes or road flares.
- No flash photography should be used, as this will ruin the pilot's night vision.

- Do not point white lights toward the helicopter, this may temporarily blind the pilot.
- Flashing red emergency lights should be used to help the pilot find the landing zone.
- Advise the pilot of any obstructions such as, power poles and lines, trees, fences.
- If the helicopter is on a slope, approach and depart from the downhill side.
- If hazardous materials are involved, advise the communications center when requesting a helicopter and make sure the crew is informed prior to their landing.
- Any patient that has been involved in a hazardous materials incident shall be fully decontaminated prior to loading into a helicopter.