

2.11 HELICOPTER USAGE

2.11.1 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [2.11 Helicopter Usage Policy](#)

2.11.2 PROCEDURES

- (1) Authorization for helicopters through EMBC will only be given from one of two sources:
 - a. EMBC Regional Duty Manager (RDM) responsible for the region at the time of the request.
 - b. EMBC Provincial Duty Manager (PDM) through the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC).

Duty Managers must advise ECC immediately when they activate helicopter usage under the policy.
- (2) SAR groups may prearrange the use of a helicopter with an approved company. EMBC regional offices may be contacted for a list of approved carriers.
- (3) The helicopter (and company) utilized will be the most economical yet capable of performing the task; possession of appropriately qualified personnel and approved equipment must be considered.
- (4) The helicopter is not to be used for conducting search operations. The only exceptions are when:
 - a. Subject has entered a fast-moving river or large body of water.
 - b. Weather conditions are likely to cause severe hypothermia.
- (5) The following conditions must be met before a SAR Manager may request a helicopter:
 - a. In order that a SAR Manager is able to engage a helicopter without the prior approval of the EMBC, there must be a pre-plan in place that includes a listing of approved air carriers that may be engaged in a SAR operation. The pre-plan must have been signed-off by the Regional Manager. If no pre-plan is in place then the SAR Manager must contact the RDM or the PDM through the ECC before ordering any helicopter services.
 - b. SAR groups may prearrange the use of a helicopter with an approved company and such



approved company should be identified in their operational pre-plan. EMBC regional offices may be contacted for a list of approved air carriers.

- c. The helicopter (and company) utilized will be the most economical yet capable of performing the task; possession of appropriately qualified personnel and approved equipment must be considered.
 - d. Helicopter usage is limited to one hour without prior approval from the RDM or PDM.
 - e. The SAR Manager is to inform ECC within 1 hour of engaging the helicopter under the policy detailed above.
- (6) The PDM must approve any procedure not covered by this policy.

AIR SERVICE EMERGENCY NUMBER

- (1) Upon authorization, an Air Services Emergency (ASE) form (including number) is raised by the ECC. Either the RDM or PDM will advise the field staff (SAR Manager or Emergency Program Coordinator) of the ASE number.
- (2) The field staff are to ensure that the ASE number and Task Number are given to the helicopter company. When the helicopter company invoices EMBC the following must accompany the invoice:
 - a. A passenger manifest showing who was on board during all flights.
 - b. Both the ASE and Task Numbers (appearing on invoice).
- (3) Any helicopter hired without the consent of an RDM or PDM will not be paid by EMBC but will be the responsibility of the requesting individual and/or agency.