

Augusta County Emergency Services Officers Association

*Augusta County Government Center
P.O. Box 590 – 18 Government Center Lane
Verona, Virginia 24482*



Fire-EMS Standard Operating Guideline

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|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Section: | General |
| Title: | Helicopter EMS Auto Launch |
| Date: | September 21, 2021 |
| Revised: | October 20, 2021 |

Helicopter EMS (HEMS) Auto Launch

The Augusta County Emergency Communications Center (Augusta ECC) will provide the best practice and standard to coordinate air transportation for on-scene missions (in Augusta County) that require simultaneous dispatch of air and ground EMS resources based upon pre-established criteria.

To provide the best service, Augusta ECC will interview the caller and obtain pertinent information to determine if the call for service merits HEMS auto launch on the initial dispatch.

The following outlines the criteria Augusta ECC will follow to determine HEMS auto launch:

Event Types

- ✓ Burn patients – covering large area of the body w/ respiratory distress
- ✓ Falls 20 feet or greater with unconscious patient
- ✓ Industrial incidents w/confirmed extremity amputation and / or entrapment, and / or unconscious patient
- ✓ Farming incidents w/confirmed extremity amputation and / or entrapment and / or unconscious patient
- ✓ Gunshot wound to chest, abdomen, neck or head
- ✓ Stab wound to chest, abdomen, neck or head
- ✓ Traffic crashes with confirmed ejection
- ✓ Traffic crashes with confirmed entrapment with unconscious patient
- ✓ Motorcycle/ATV crash with confirmed unconscious patient
- ✓ Pedestrian struck with confirmed unconscious patient
- ✓ Augusta ECC discretion

In the event Augusta ECC is unable to ascertain confirmed indicators that support HEMS auto launch, Augusta ECC will check the availability of the closest available HEMS unit and place them on standby.

Procedure

Definition

Auto Launch – The simultaneous dispatch of HEMS and ground resources through a 911 request for EMS based upon predesignated and/or medical criteria set up by local or regional EMS systems.

Early Activation - A HEMS provider departs for the requested scene prior to arrival of first responders, based on a high index of suspicion that specialty services will be necessary. This is initiated by the request of the first responders.

Dispatch

Augusta ECC will follow the Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) for “Dispatch”.

Responding Details

Augusta ECC will follow the SOG for “Status and Radio Acknowledgement” to include the status of a HEMS unit

Augusta ECC Operations

- Notify the closest available HEMS unit based on PSAP auto launch LZ recommendations.
- Document all status check(s), standby request(s), launches and HEMS Auto Launch in the CAD incident.
- Following the SOG for “Landing Zones”, Augusta ECC will dispatch a fire response for landing zone operations.
- Augusta ECC will not dispatch a fire response to assist with landing zone operations at designated improved, or FAA-approved landing zones, unless requested.
- In the event the dispatched event changes, or the patient’s condition changes, on scene emergency service personnel and/or Augusta ECC can redirect or cancel the response of a HEMS unit or UVA-Pegasus CC Ground.

References

Primary HEMS Unit (s) servicing Augusta County

PHI - Aircare 5

Weyers Cave, VA

UVA – Pegasus

Charlottesville, VA

Carilion Life-Guard 12

Lexington, VA

Critical Care Ground

UVA-Pegasus Critical Care Ground

Charlottesville, VA

FAA-Approved Landing Zones

Augusta Health

Fishersville, VA

038 05 44N

078 59 12W

Eagles Nest Airport

Waynesboro, VA

038 04 44N

078 56 32W

Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport

Weyers Cave, VA

038 15 80N

078 53 80W

Improved Landing Zones

Pending

Pre-Designated Landing Zones

Afton Mountain

Afton, VA

038 01 50N

078 51 43W

Augusta County Government Center

Verona, VA

038 11 32N
079 00 48W

Augusta Spring Wetlands

Augusta Springs, VA
038 06 30N
079 18 36W

Buffalo Gap

Buffalo Gap, VA
038 11 36N
079 12 51W

Churchville Elementary

Churchville, VA
038 13 26N
079 09 32W

Riverheads Elementary School

Staunton, VA
038 01 59N
079 08 31W

Level 1 Trauma Centers

University of Virginia Health System

1215 Lee Street
Charlottesville, VA

Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital

1906 Belleview Avenue, SE
Roanoke, VA

VCU Health

1250 E. Marshall Street
Richmond, VA

INOVA Fairfax Hospital

3300 Gallows Road
Falls Church, VA