

Radio Communication Procedures For Helicopters Transporting to Duluth Hospitals

PURPOSE:

To establish standardized communications procedures for helicopters destined for or departing from St. Mary's Medical Center or St. Luke's Hospital, Duluth, Minnesota.

PROCEDURES:

Dispatch Communication:

1. For patients coming to St. Mary's Medical Center, notify LifeFlight Control at 800-447-5540 as early as possible of intent to transport a patient by helicopter, even if ETA is not yet known. Follow up with an accurate ETA and details of patient condition, especially any deterioration of condition.
2. For patients coming to St. Luke's Hospital, notify St. Luke's Security at 218-249-5537 as early as possible of intent to transport a patient by helicopter, even if ETA is not yet known. Follow up with further details, including ETA, when known.

Inbound Aircraft:

1. For flights inbound to any Duluth hospital, the pilot should contact LifeFlight Control with a position report on Unicom 123.050 when the aircraft is 10 miles out.
2. All aircraft arriving to St. Mary's Medical Center should contact LifeFlight Control with a patient report on ALS 155.400 when the aircraft is 10 minutes from landing. In the event that frequency isn't working then the call should be made on Regional 155.355, 203.5 MHz.
3. Aircraft arriving to St. Luke's Hospital should contact St. Luke's Emergency Department with a patient report on ALS 155.400 when the aircraft is 10 minutes from landing. In the event ALS 155.400 isn't working then the call should be made on Regional EMS Frequency 155.355, 203.5 MHz.

Note: In addition to the Duluth International Airport there are several uncontrolled airports in the vicinity of St. Mary's Medical Center. Communications with these airports shall be in accordance with the FAR's, AIM's and the Communications Agreement reached at the MN Air Medical Council on 28 August 2008.

Departing Aircraft:

1. All aircraft departing any Duluth hospital should contact LifeFlight Control on Unicom 123.050 with their departure time and any request. This will also serve to alert other area EMS aircraft of your departure.
2. All departing aircraft should monitor ALS 155.400, 203.5 MHz and Unicom 123.050 until they advise they are frequency changed out bound.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

St. Mary's Medical Center and Helipad:

1. The following frequencies are available at St. Mary's Medical Center:
 - a. ALS 155.400 203.5 MHz
 - b. Regional 155.355 203.5 MHz
 - c. Statewide EMS 155.340 Open PL tone
2. St. Mary's pilot control lighting is available on Unicom 123.050:
 - b. 5 clicks activate the helipad perimeter lights.
 - c. 7 clicks activate the helipad perimeter lights, rotating beacon and obstruction lights.
3. St. Mary's Medical Center AWOS is available on 118.375.
4. Duluth Approach Control remote frequency for St. Mary's Helipad is 124.8.
5. St. Mary's LifeFlight Communication Center (LifeFlight Control) can be reached at 800-447-5540.

St. Luke's Hospital and Helipad:

1. The following frequencies are available at St. Lukes's Hospital:
 - d. ALS 155.400 203.5 MHz
 - b. Regional 155.355 203.5 MHz
 - c. Statewide EMS 155.340 Open PL tone
2. St. Luke's Security secures the helipad during landing and take-off. St. Luke's can be reached at 218-249-5537. Security monitors radio communications at the helipad during landing.