

PREPARING FOR A HELICOPTER LANDING

(Air Ambulance, OPP, MNR)

Helicopters land on flat rocks and open spaces. Helicopter rotor downwash is capable of reaching speeds of up to 100 mph so helicopters generate high winds that can present a hazard.

PREPARE FOR THE LANDING:

Clear potential landing areas of *everything* that is not secure, including boats of all kinds and sizes, sticks, plywood, lawn chairs, tables, tarps, garbage bags/cans, etc.

Take cover inside while a helicopter is arriving or departing. Stay 200 feet away and wait for instructions from the helicopter crew.

THE MNR HELICOPTER (FIRE):

As soon as you first hear the sound of an approaching helicopter, the MNR has advised that, "Everyone needs to get off the island/property, into their boats and move far, far away while the helicopter lands." Helicopter wash can overturn even very large boats.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES:

Avoid waving your hands above your head to attract attention; this is the universal "wave-off" signal that tells a pilot NOT to land.

Avert your eyes to protect them from rotor downwash.

Do not smoke within 200 feet of any helicopter.

Dogs will run toward helicopters creating danger and hazard. Keep all resident animals secured and out of the way of emergency workers.

PLEASE KEEP THE SCENE SAFE:

When responding to a call for help with a fire, make arrangements to leave pets and children at home. The presence of children and dogs at a firefighting site is not appropriate and presents a risk to those fighting the fire as well as to the children and dogs themselves.