

Risk Management Guideline

Helicopter Landings At Schools

Background:

The landing of helicopters on school sites typically occurs during disaster preparedness exercises and demonstrations by law enforcement and emergency personnel. While this activity can be exciting and may be considered an opportunity to expose students to law enforcement and emergency service activities, it poses significant risk to the participants and school district. Hazards include the catastrophic unexpected crash landing or take off, as well as flying debris (dust, rocks, pebbles, trash, and vegetation) from the whirl of the blades.

Members of CRSIG do not have specific insurance coverage available through the MOC (Memorandum of Coverage) for the landing of helicopters on school sites. In some instances, law enforcement, emergency services and fire services may require use of a school site – in this case, the school site will have been determined to fall under the jurisdiction of the agency. An example would be use of a school site during a disaster response.

Recommendation:

Helicopters should not be allowed to land on CRSIG member sites unless required. If a CRSIG member enters into an agreement to allow the landing of a helicopter on a school or County Office of Education site, the following guidelines should be strictly adhered to.

Guidelines:

- 1) Prior to a helicopter landing event on your school site, you will need to require the:
 - a) Certificate of Insurance – This is a standard form that provides proof that an insurance policy is in force. (Bruce Blankers is the contact for Medi-Flight in Stanislaus County. The Certificate must be obtained each year.)
 - b) Additional Insured Endorsement – This is the page that has been added onto the helicopter owner’s policy that names your district as a “covered member” (Without this specific endorsement, your district remains uninsured for the event. The endorsement must be obtained each year)
- 2) Once you have received the Certificate of Insurance and Additional Insured Endorsement, it should be faxed to the CRSIG Broker for review.
Gail Blagg – Sierra Self Insurance. Phone: 530-273-7213, Fax: 530-273-6459
- 3) Serious consideration must be given to the exposure of students, staff and members of the public who may be exposed to material whipped in the air during the helicopter landing and take off. Protective measures include only allowing participants to view through classroom windows or at a lengthy distance from the helicopter (100 yards) if outside.
- 4) Students, staff and members of the public should never be allowed to approach the helicopter while the blades are in operation.
- 5) Students, staff and members of the public should never be allowed to be transported in a helicopter.