

MINIMUM ALTITUDE FOR VFR

[135.203]

During all enroute operations, pilots are encouraged to be mindful of the FAA/HAI "Fly Neighborly" program (more information may be found at www.rotor.com). Every effort should be made to fly at altitudes that are not only safe, but also minimize the risk of noise complaints. The minimum altitudes listed below are not intended for routine use.

At all times, with the exception of takeoffs and landings, Air Methods' pilots will operate at an altitude allowing, if a power unit fails, an emergency landing without undue hazard to persons or property on the surface.

While enroute, Air Methods' helicopter pilots will maintain at least the following minimum altitudes:

- DAY: 300 feet AGL.
- NIGHT: 500 feet AGL.

In all cases, aircraft will not be operated so as to pose a danger to persons or property on the surface.

OPERATIONS ON OR NEAR FROZEN WATERWAYS

If after evaluating possible landing zones, the pilot finds that an ice landing operation best meets the mission requirements, then Ice Landing Operations are authorized.

The following procedures will be utilized when conducting Ice Landing Operations:

- Ice thickness should be 16 inches minimum. This should be verified by a reliable source. (16 inches provides support for 32,000 lbs.)
- Plan the touchdown point at least 100 yards from the shore of the lake.
- Plan the touchdown point at least 100 yards measured perpendicularly from river, stream, or spring inlets/outlets.
- Maintaining 100% NR while on the ice will minimize the weight being supported by the landing gear. At 100% NR, it is also easier to respond rapidly to ice instability. If the pilot elects to load and off-load the helicopter at 100% NR, extra vigilance must be exercised, since the pilot will remain at the controls. A full crew briefing of the operation will be accomplished prior to loading or off-loading at 100% NR.
- Ice landings will not be attempted on rivers, streams, or flowages.

SCENE AND HOSPITAL COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES

This procedure applies to operations to or from hospitals and scenes where no established communications procedure exists. Examples of established communications procedures are CTAF, Class B, C, and D airspace or hospitals that have established procedures for operations at their facility.

In the event that an area doesn't have a designated communications frequency or the frequency is unknown, the pilot will announce in the blind his or her intentions on 123.025. If the frequency is known, the pilot will make the announcements on that frequency.

Pilots will announce their intentions for the following operations when no established communications procedure exists

- Approach
- At five miles from landing
- At one mile from landing
- Upon landing
- Departure
- Upon liftoff
- At one mile from departure
- At five miles from departure