



Today's discussion is from the  
Aviation Category.

## HELICOPTER LANDING AREA SELECTION

Consider the following points when selecting a landing area for a helicopter:

- Locate a flat area that is of sufficient size for the helicopter you are expecting to land.
  - Type I -- Clear and level touchdown pad measuring 30 feet by 30 feet; safety circle measuring 110 feet in diameter.
  - Type II -- Clear and level touchdown pad measuring 20 feet by 20 feet; safety circle measuring 90 feet in diameter.
  - Type III -- Clear and level touchdown pad measuring 15 feet by 15 feet; safety circle measuring 75 feet in diameter.
- Choose an area clear of people, vehicles, and obstructions such as trees, poles, and especially overhead wires.
- The area must be free of stumps, brush, posts, large rocks or anything over 18 inches high.
- Consider the wind direction. Helicopters land and take off into the wind.
- Choose an approach free of obstructions. Any obstruction should be relayed to the helicopter crew during initial radio contact.
- Remove or secure any loose items in and around the landing area such as trash, blankets, hats, or equipment.
- Wet down the landing area if dusty conditions are present.

References:

[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#)

[Fireline Handbook](#)

[Interagency Helicopter Operations Guide \(IHOG\)](#)

---

**Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.**

**ONLINE | MAIL: 6 Minutes For Safety Task Group • 3833 S. Development Ave • Boise, ID 83705 | FAX: 208-387-5250**

**[6 Minutes Home](#)**