

Equestrian events of all disciplines at some point may use the support of the air ambulance in removal of the injured person. The air ambulance is managed by the NHS Trust, and it therefore the responsibility of the NHS Trust to decide what resources your incident requires. The decision will be based on a clinical and availability priority basis. At the time of the incident, you will not know prior to the arrival of external medical resources being used. The control operative will inform you of what mode of transport / resource will be sent and what you will be expecting.

What information shall I need?

There are some important and key information which you should have when planning the event to ensure a quick medical response for the event, but also minimising alarm to competitors and connections and/or holding up the competition. When making the 999 call, the ambulance service does not know who you are, what the event is, not that you are running an event, therefore you will need to give them as much information as possible.

- You must have the **What3Words** references of the main gate, but also any key areas, such as the show jumping ring, XC Control, Dressage arenas, Lorry parking, etc.
- The local map of the area, to be able to provide detailed descriptions on how to find the area, should you are asked.
- Have a set RV point. Where will you be meeting the ambulance? Who is meeting the ambulance? If you remember that the ambulance service does not know your event.
- On arrival of the road ambulance, please ask the ambulance to turn off all blue lights and sirens, if not already done so, as this may cause distress to horses.

Air Ambulance Site Preparations

The reception of an air ambulance is now very different than what the previous arrangements would have been practiced. You WILL not influence the pilot on where to land, they will make the decision and your role is to be ready to assist when they have landed. If you have a NHS ambulance with you at the incident they will be communicating with the pilot on arrangements prior to landing.

At the time of the landing/take off of the air ambulance, individuals on site will want to watch to see the helicopter just to spectate, therefore you will need to be prepared to have a steward on hand to remove or marshal away. If you have official vehicles on site, this is a good way of screening the incident, rather than using big screens which pose a risk on movement of the helicopter.

Actions to take prior to landing the Air Ambulance

- The onsite medical team should be informed that an air ambulance is to arrive and they should activate their blue lights WHEN confirmation has been established that all horses are safely away from the area, and it is clear to land.
- The ambulance with visual indications, should be placed by the incident, allowing the pilot to establish where the incident is located.
- The Health & Safety Steward/Senior Official must ensure that the area has no loose items on the ground, such as bags or loose materials which may become airborne on landing/take off of the helicopter.
- If you are on a cross-country course, post and stringing **MUST** be removed to ensure this does not become entangled in the helicopter skids.
- It is a good idea to inform competitors that a helicopter is on route so they can determine based on their horse whether to dismount or stay mounted.
- The pilot will provide guidance to the NHS ambulance crew on requirements for horses and public. This will depend on the venue, how far from the lorry park the incident is located, and other disciplines/activities taking place on site (if applicable). Some may require all horses to go back to lorry park and others may just be happy that they are away from the incident. Once the pilot has provided guidance then event stewards will need to action the guidance. Once this has been completed, information shall then be passed back to the ambulance crew that all horses are secure.
- If individuals are holding privacy screens, these are to be removed, rolled up and secured. For example, under a car, in the horse ambulance etc.
- Inform control (HT)/organiser on the phone that activation of the blue lights is the indication that the area is safe.
- If the air ambulance is to land some distance from the incident, then have prepared a vehicle to collect the air ambulance crew and equipment to bring back to the incident

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