



**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS
FIRE SERVICE POLICY**

Policy No. 5840	Date Issued: June 1, 1996
Section: 5800 – Specific Procedures	Date Revised: November 13, 2023
SUBJECT: AIR RESCUE	
APPROVED: <signed copy on file>	_____
	Chairperson, Fire Service Users Subcommittee
APPROVED: <signed copy on file>	_____
	Amethyst Uchida, General Manager

- 1.0 Definition
 - 1.1 An air rescue may be necessary to reach victims that are inaccessible by land.
 - 1.2 An air rescue is not a request for a medical transport.
- 2.0 Policy
 - 2.1 The Incident Commander (IC) is the only authorized requestor of air rescue.
 - 2.2 Upon the IC's request for air rescue resources, dispatch will contact the Op Area ECC. Relay the request for air rescue resources with as much detail regarding the incident as possible.

Details should include, but are not limited to:

- Specific needs of victim
 - rescue
 - rescue (if medical only, no rescue, refer to Section 6000, Operations Policies and Procedures, Emergency Medical Service)
- Number of victims and condition, if known
- Exact location, description and identification of the helicopter landing zone
- Geographical conditions
 - forest

- cleared areas
- canyons
- water
- latitude and longitude, if known

- Weather problems, if any
 - fog
 - wind

- Unusual hazards, if any
 - power lines
 - wildland fire

- Assigned tactical frequency for ground/air communication

3.0 Cancellation of Air Rescue

3.1 The Incident Commander has the authority to cancel a field requested air rescue.

3.2 Any provider may cancel or refuse an air rescue because of hazardous conditions. The pilot has final authority to continue or cancel an air rescue if there is any question about the safety of a mission.