

# UNDERSTANDING HOW AIR MEDICAL SERVICES ARE USED



## WHY ARE AIR AMBULANCES NECESSARY?

According to the Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS),

# 90%

of air medical transports are for patients who have suffered:

STROKE HEART ATTACK BURN HIGH-RISK NEONATAL/ PEDIATRIC CASES TRAUMA



THE SEVERITY OF THE PATIENT'S CONDITION NECESSITATES:

- Reduced transport time
- Advanced crew training
- Advanced equipment

## WHO MAKES THE CALL?

\*following strict protocols developed by regional oversight boards

Patient transport can only be declined for a limited number of reasons, including:

Bad weather, maintenance issues, pilots approaching maximum time on duty per FAA regulations, or crews engaged in another transport at the same time



PHYSICIANS



FIRST RESPONDERS



AUTHORIZED CARE PROFESSIONALS\*

Air medical services are not allowed to discriminate based on a patient's ability to pay.

Trauma often includes:

- Motor vehicle crashes
- Hunting accidents
- Serious workplace injuries

With the increased closure of rural hospitals, these transports are becoming more common



## WHAT TYPE OF CALL IS IT?

According to a 2017 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report,

# 70%

of all air medical calls are for interfacility transports from one hospital to another with higher levels of care

### INTERFACILITY

**There is nothing routine about these calls.** Often, a patient will arrive at a local hospital and the staff realizes they are unable to care for them because of the severity of the illness or trauma. The medical team calls air transport when it determines the patient's severity and/or condition requires a therapy that must be received in the 60-90 minute window for the patient's best outcome or to save their life.

A LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTER



COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

OR

### SCENE-BASED TRANSPORTS

**When an air ambulance needs to land at an accident site, such as a highway or road, to pick up a patient.** These also include transports of patients suffering acute medical incidents like stroke or heart attack. In these cases, air ambulances will meet first responders at pre-established landing areas.



## WHICH COMPANY GETS CALLED?

IF MORE THAN ONE AIR MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER IS AVAILABLE:



Determination 1  
**PROXIMITY**

THE CLOSEST AIRCRAFT SHOULD BE CALLED



Determination 2  
**RELIABILITY**

Are their estimated flight times accurate? Do the personnel work efficiently with the agency in the transition of patient care?