

Keeping Our Shared Air Space a Safe Air Space

The Virginia State Medevac Committee recognizes the utility of unmanned aircraft (drones), and their increased presence in our national airspace system.



In the spirit of working together to ensure safety and privacy for patients and personnel, the Virginia Office of EMS has worked with Helicopter EMS programs in the Commonwealth to develop four key points for Landing Zone (LZ) Commanders and Helipad Security Personnel:

ASSESS

In addition to assessing scene safety around the perimeter, a 3-dimensional approach should be taken, ensuring that the area above the scene is safe as well. A standard assessment includes a review of wires and other obstacles in and around an LZ, as well as drones.

COMMUNICATE

Do not assume that the pilot has a visual on the drone. Maintain open communications with the pilot via radio so that you can report drone sightings as soon as possible to maximize reaction time, even if the drone is stationary.

IDENTIFY

Identify the drone operator if possible and engage them. Inform them of the boundaries and the requirement to communicate their intent to operate a drone prior to doing so.



LAND

When in doubt, have the operator **LAND THE DRONE**. It is always better to err on the side of caution. No video footage is worth the potential risk of an avoidable incident.