

## Air Ambulance Service - Safety Procedures

**Document Number** PD2005\_503

**Publication date** 01-Mar-2005

**Functional Sub group** Clinical/ Patient Services - Transport  
Personnel/Workforce - Occupational Health & Safety

**Summary** Safety procedures to be followed by personnel whilst working in the proximity of an ambulance aircraft.

**Author Branch** Ambulance Service

**Branch contact** 9553 4500

**Applies to** Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations - Non Declared, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres

**Distributed to** Health Professional Associations and Related Organisations, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres

**Review date** 01-Mar-2010

**File No.** C526

**Previous reference** 78/374

**Issue date** 05-Dec-1978

**Status** Active

### Director-General

This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is **mandatory** for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.

**CIRCULAR**

<b>File No</b>	C526
<b>Circular No</b>	78/374
<b>Issued</b>	5 December 1978
<b>Contact</b>	Mr J Ryan

**AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE - SAFETY PROCEDURES**

Attention has been drawn to certain potentially dangerous incidents occurring in relation to the Air Ambulance aircraft. The following instructions are to be observed by all personnel whilst working in the proximity of the aircraft:

1. Walking patients and/or relatives of patients are not to be permitted to move unescorted around the aircraft hangar or the tarmac area. This is illegal and dangerous due to aircraft movement and spinning propellers.
2. Patients awaiting transport are not to be left unattended at airports.
3. Personnel are not to approach the luggage compartment on the aircraft until cleared to do so by the pilot. Even if the propellers are not moving, the aircraft's power supply may still be on and any movement of the propeller to allow the luggage compartment, door to be opened could cause the aircraft engines to fire and propeller to spin.

Personnel who disregard these safety instructions expose themselves and patients to extreme danger.

H.C. EAGLETON,  
Secretary

---

Distributed in accordance with circular list(s):

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	73 Miller Street North Sydney NSW 2060 Locked Mail Bag 961 North Sydney NSW 2059 Telephone (02) 9391 9000 Facsimile (02) 9391 9101	
<b>F</b>	<b>G</b> 374	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>		
<b>K</b>	<b>L</b> 42	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>P</b>		<b>Q</b>

In accordance with the provisions incorporated in the Accounts and Audit Determination, the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officers and their equivalents, within a public health organisation, shall be held responsible for ensuring the observance of Departmental policy (including circulars and procedure manuals) as issued by the Minister and the Director-General of the Department of Health.