

Air Ambulance Service - Safety Procedures

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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.

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

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

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Policy Manual Not applicable

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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This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time.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

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Contact	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

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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.