

Helicopter School Landing Authorization

HLA Definitions

Final Approach and Takeoff Area (FATO) - The area of a heliport over which the final phase of the approach to a hover or a landing is completed and from which the takeoff is initiated.

Safety Area - A defined area on a heliport surrounding the FATO which is free of objects at or above the elevation of the closest point of the TLOF, other than those required for air navigation purposes, and is intended to reduce the risk of damage to helicopters accidentally diverging from the FATO. Objects required for air navigation purposes within this area shall be on frangible mounts and shall not penetrate the approach or transitional surfaces by more than two inches.

Touchdown and Liftoff Area (TLOF): The load bearing area of a heliport that is centered within the FATO and upon which a helicopter lands or takes off (for HLAs, this area is not separately defined within the FATO).

Approach/Takeoff Path: The flight track, centered within an approach surface, which helicopters follow when landing at or taking off from a heliport.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Landing Site - A site used for the landing and taking off of EMS helicopters that is located at or as near as practical to a medical emergency or at or near a medical facility and

(1) has been designated an EMS landing site by an officer authorized by a public safety agency, as defined in PUC 21662.1, using criteria that the public safety agency has determined is reasonable and prudent for the safe operation of EMS helicopters (a copy of the written authorization must be provided to the Department) and

(2) is used, over any 12-month period, for no more than an average of 6 landings per month with a patient or patients on the helicopter, except to allow for adequate medical response to a mass casualty event even if that response causes the site to be used beyond these limits, and

(3) is not marked as a permitted heliport as described in Section 3554 of these regulations and

(4) is used only for emergency medical purposes.

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