

## ENGINE CREW LOADING PROCEDURES (8300)

(Revised September 2001)

It is very likely that the first involvement of the engine crew with the helicopter will be when responding to a fire. The helicopter is sent back to pick up the crew and The crew leader should park the fire engine (beacon on) in an easily visible area and attempt to establish radio contact (CDF air-ground or assigned tactical freq.) with the helicopter.

Crew leader tools up the crew and prepares for the pickup:

- Give the crew a quick review of helicopter safety (Emergency Incident Management Procedures Handbook).
- Make sure all loose gear and hard hats, canteen belts, etc., are held securely in their hands.
- Place the hand tools in a pile in front of and slightly to one side of the spot where the helicopter will land.
- Keep crew and truck at least 100 feet away from touchdown point and out of approach and departure paths.

If no contact with helicopter, relay through the air attack supervisor.

- Describe location, using clear landmarks. Example: "By the corrals on Morgan Valley Road."
- When the helicopter is sighted, establish radio contact and guide the pilot to your location. Example: "I have you in sight. I am one mile north of you beside the road you just passed over."

Crew leader directs helicopter in for landing.

- Wear hard hat with chin strap securely in place; and goggles.
- Provide a wind indicator (dust or streamer).
- If familiar with helicopter hand signals, provide landing assistance; otherwise clear the landing area.

Crew leader moves out in front and slightly to one side (25 feet) clear of rotor path, and gives the pilot the okay to lift off. The crew leader then proceeds to the fire with the engine.

Assure basic ground safety rules are adhered to.