



The Ohio Chapter of AAMT

Helicopter Air Ambulance Safety Measures

Helicopter ETA/ETE Shopping

“Helicopter ETA/ETE shopping refers to the practice of calling various operators to determine an estimated time of arrival (ETA) or estimated time enroute (ETE). We believe it is important that requesting agencies be made aware that many helicopter operators have “auto-launch” procedures in place which may be accidentally triggered by a simple ETA/ETE request. When a requesting agency requests an ETA/ETE to a hospital or landing zone, this may result in activation of an “auto-launch” procedure when in fact the requesting agency did not intend to launch a helicopter.

For this reason, we are asking all requesting agencies to promote full disclosure by informing any dispatch or flight communications office of any previous call or request for ETA/ETEs to a hospital or landing zone.

When requesting air medical transport, it is critical to the safety of helicopter operations for the requestor to be specific as to the intent of the call:

- If you are inquiring about the ETA/ETE only, specify whether this is an inquiry only or an actual flight request.
- If it is not your intent to launch a helicopter, please state, “Do Not Launch”.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO KEEP OUR FLIGHT CREW & PATIENTS SAFE!!!