



The Ohio Chapter of AAMS

Helicopter Air Ambulance Safety Measures – “Helicopter Shopping”

“Helicopter shopping” refers to the practice of calling, in sequence, various operators until an operator agrees to take a flight assignment - without notifying the subsequent operators of the reason(s) the flight was declined by another service, or that another service had in fact already been contacted.

We believe it is imperative that full disclosure of previous operators’ responses to requests for patient transfer be passed on to the subsequent operators for use in the operator’s risk management evaluation, particularly if an original flight request was denied due to weather. Accordingly, we are asking you to promote full disclosure of the reasons for refusal of an EMS flight assignment by one or more operators when contacting subsequent operators with a flight request.

When requesting air medical transport, it is critical to the safety of helicopter operations for the requestor to inform air medical if:

- The request has been turned down by any other air medical program(s) due to weather, and/or
- Any other air medical program(s) are inbound to your facility/location.

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