

**WAMC Position Statement Regarding Wind Turbines and Safe Landing Zones
March 2010**

The Wisconsin Air Medical Council (WAMC) has active participation from all Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) operating within the State of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Air Medical Council is committed to safety and quality patient care in our operations.

WAMC is aware of plans for the construction of wind turbine farms throughout the State of Wisconsin over the next several years. We, in coordination with our aircraft vendors, have reviewed the potential turbulence wind turbines may or may not create. In general, wind turbines are viewed in the same manner as any other obstruction encountered along flight paths, including power lines, utility poles, large signs, cell towers, or any other similar object.

Operating HEMS aircraft near wind turbines is not precluded; however additional training for landing zone selection near wind turbines should be reviewed with all agencies. HEMS programs in the state are available to work with local law enforcement, fire department, and emergency medical service agencies for the purpose for providing training related to landing HEMS aircraft in the area around wind turbines. We encourage all pre-hospital agencies to contact their local HEMS program and schedule landing zone selection training sessions for their personnel. It is important that all personnel that may interact with HEMS are able to select safe and appropriate landing zones when wind turbines are present in their service area.

There may be times that the selected landing zone for a HEMS scene flight response, located in the area of a wind turbine, is determined to be inappropriate for landing. The responding HEMS program will coordinate an alternate landing zone with local on-scene agencies and ensure that rapid and timely access to the patient occurs without compromising safety or patient care..

HEMS programs strongly encourage recurring landing zone training on an annual basis with all pre-hospital personnel. This landing zone training is also recommended when significant new personnel have been added to the department, or new terrain challenges such as a new wind turbine farm has been constructed in the service area. Contact your local HEMS program to schedule landing zone training sessions. If you have additional questions regarding HEMS operations in and around wind turbines, please contact your local HEMS program for additional information.