

# NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2006/01



## Responding with the CareFlight Head Injury Retrieval Trial (HIRT) Helicopter

This Operations Bulletin highlights the procedures to be followed when the HIRT helicopter attends an incident where NSWFB personnel are in attendance.

**This Bulletin must be read in conjunction with SOG 15.2 Safe Work with Helicopters**

This document can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

[http://ois/ois\\_policies/documents/sog/9611C05E-FE6B-41C2-B050-D4B248963E08.pdf](http://ois/ois_policies/documents/sog/9611C05E-FE6B-41C2-B050-D4B248963E08.pdf)

CareFlight are operating a Head Injury Retrieval Trial (HIRT) helicopter (pictured below) to respond rapidly during daylight hours to selected medical emergencies in the greater Sydney area, eg MVAs.



**Figure 1. NRMA CareFlight HIRT Helicopter**

This helicopter will often arrive at accident sites, possibly before or shortly after other emergency services have arrived. Sydney ComCen may be able to advise responding crews that the HIRT helicopter is attending an incident.

NSWFB firefighters in attendance at the scene and available for tasking are encouraged to assist in clearing an area for the HIRT Helicopter to land, if required.

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### NOTE

Core roles such as rescue, hazmat or fire protection will take priority over assisting the HIRT helicopter to land.

Refer to SOG 15.2 Safe Work with Helicopters, especially Section 5.5 Landing Sites, for guidance on how to select and prepare a landing site.

NSWFB personnel should make every effort to move themselves, and the public, at least 50 metres clear of the landing area and look out for any items that could be disturbed by the rotor wash such as accident debris, salvage sheets etc.

On occasion, a public roadway may be the only suitable landing area in close proximity to the patient. In this case, the helicopter will only land on urban roads that have been closed. In rural areas the pilot may elect to land briefly on a quiet road while the medical crew exits the helicopter. The pilot will then reposition the helicopter to a less hazardous area.



### WARNING

Firefighters assisting with HIRT Helicopter operations must wear full structural firefighting ensemble, with goggles and helmet visor down, to reduce risk from flying dust and debris and allow clear identification by the pilot.

Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

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