## 2016 Helistops - Heliports Reminder List

### Applicable Codes and Standards

**I. Scope**

1. Building Code requirements for heliports and helistops are not applicable to facilities located on grade. NFPA 418 requirements are not applicable to temporary landing sites and emergency evacuation facilities.  

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**II. Helistops/Heliports Located on Buildings**

1. All landing areas located on buildings or structures shall have at least two means of egress. 

2. Two means of egress from the rooftop landing pad to the building’s egress system shall be provided. 

3. Egress points shall be at least 90° apart as measured from the center of landing pad, remotely located not less than 30’ apart with no two egress point located on the same side of the roof top landing pad. Means of egress shall not obstruct flight operations. 

4. When landing platforms or roof areas are less than 60’ in length or less than 2,000 sq. ft. in area, the second means of egress may be a fire escape, alternating tread device or ladder leading to the floor below. 

5. The heliport shall have at least two access points for firefighting/rescue personnel. The access points shall be located at least 90 degrees from each other as measured from the center of the landing pad. 

6. The landing area for helicopters less than 3,500 pounds shall be not less than 20 feet in length and width. The landing area shall be surrounded on all sides by a clear area having a minimum average width at roof level of 15 feet but with no width less than 5 feet. 

7. The landing area requirements for helicopters of 3,500 pounds or larger are enforced by the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation. See FAA A/C 150/5390-2B Heliport Design Advisory Circular, Sept. 30, 2004, for additional information. 

8. Landing areas shall be designed to confine fuel spills to the landing area and shall drain away from exits, stairways or from a structure housing such exit or stairway. A fuel/water separator or another approved method shall be provided to contain a fuel spill. 

9. The rooftop landing pad shall be pitched to provide drainage at a slope of 0.5% to 2% in order to protect the means of egress, passenger holding area, firefighting access points and fire protection activation systems. 

10. Drainage flow from the rooftop landing pad shall not penetrate alternate egress points, stairways, ramps, hatches and other openings not designed for drainage. 

11. The pitch of the pad shall not be required where the pad consists of a passive fire protection grid surface designed and listed for fuel catchment and containment. 

12. Helicopter landing areas and the supports thereof on the roof of a building shall be noncombustible construction. 

13. Main structural support members that could be exposed to a fuel spill shall be 2-hour rated fire resistant construction.
14. The rooftop landing surface shall be constructed of approved noncombustible, nonporous materials.

15. The contiguous building roof covering within 50 feet of the landing pad edge shall have a Class A rating.

16. Where guardrails are required for roof, guardrail height may require greater platform height.

17. At least one portable fire extinguisher having a minimum 80-B:C rating shall be provided at each helistop.

18. A Class I or III standpipe (2-1/2" outlet) is required when the building is equipped with a standpipe system. All areas of a helistop or heliport area shall be located within 150 feet of the hose outlet.

19. Foam fire-protection capabilities shall be provided for rooftop heliports. Such systems shall be designed, installed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of CFC Sections 903, 904 and 905.

20. Where trained personnel are not available, fixed fire protection outlet(s) shall be provided.

21. The foam discharge rate for the fire-extinguishing system shall be 0.10 gpm/ft² for aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).

22. The area of application of foam discharge for fixed discharge outlet systems shall be the entire rooftop landing pad.

23. The duration of foam discharge for the fixed discharge outlet system shall be 5 minutes.

24. The supply calculation method shall be performed in accordance with Chapter 6 of NFPA 409, Standard on Aircraft Hangars.

25. Fire alarm pull stations are required at roof exits.

26. A means of communication shall be provided from the roof area to notify the fire department of emergencies.

27. No smoking shall be permitted within 50 feet of the landing pad edge. NO SMOKING signs shall be provided at access and egress locations.

28. FAA and California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) approval is required.

2016 California Building Code – Part 2, Title 24, CCR

2016 California Fire Code – Part 9, Title 24, CCR

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
NFPA 418 Standard for Heliports, 2011 Edition

NOTE
Compliance with all items on this list does not necessarily assure compliance with all provisions of the applicable codes and standards. This reminder list should be used only by persons with a comprehensive knowledge of the applicable codes and standards.

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