

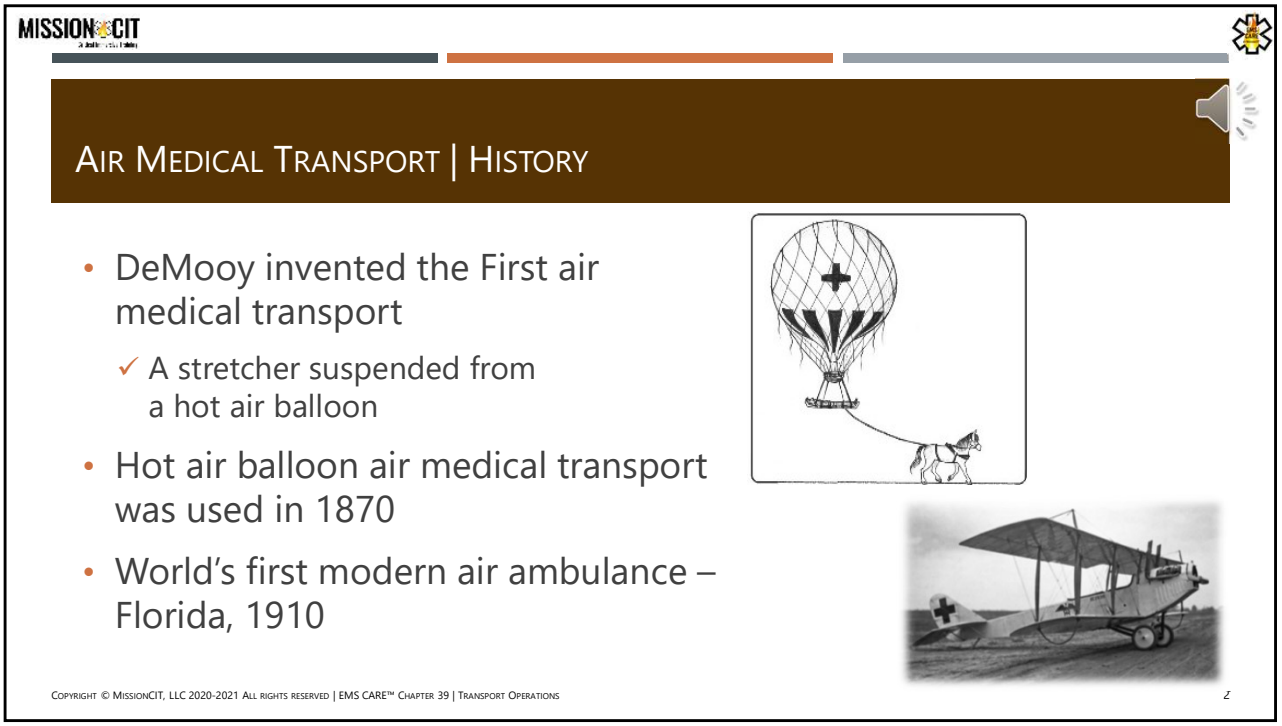
Thank you Missah.

Air medical transport has become a well-established part of the EMS system. Through the use of aircraft, patients are moved swiftly and safely throughout the world. It is used primarily when long distances or the critical nature of an injury separate our team from a patient.

In this lesson, we will be sharing some insights into the history of air medical transport. And discuss situations when air medical transport will be chosen instead of a

ground ambulance.

Good Studying



In today's modern era of medical transportation, fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters frequently serve as air ambulances. Staffed with medically trained flight crews, they help transport patients from remote locations to hospitals for the provision of medical care. The fascinating history of medical air transportation testifies to the important changes air travel has made in the modern world during a relatively brief span of human history.

Transport by air for the wounded actually began before World War I. A Dutchman named DeMooy thought hot

air balloons would prove useful. His idea was to suspend a giant stretcher under the balloon and have horses haul it. DeMooy realized surface transport was a major cause of death to injured combatants. Hot air balloon air medical transport was primarily used during the siege of Paris in 1870. This method of patient transport didn't see success for nearly 90 years.

Shortly after the Wright brothers successfully flew their first airplane, two US Army medical officers designed an airplane to transport patients. They converted a Curtiss JN-4 biplane into an air ambulance.

In due course, the world's first modern air ambulance was flown at Fort Barrancas, Florida, in 1910.

Air Medical Transport | Indications for air transport

- Vehicle rollover with unrestrained passengers
- Pedestrian struck by a car traveling at a speed >10 mph
- Fall of >15 feet
- Motorcyclist thrown from a cycle at a speed >10 mph
- A collision causing death of an occupant in the same vehicle
- Ejection of the patient from the vehicle
- Ground transport time to a trauma center of >15 minutes
- Extrication time >15 minutes
- Limited resources of local ground units
- The patient's condition would benefit from the rapid delivery of definitive care



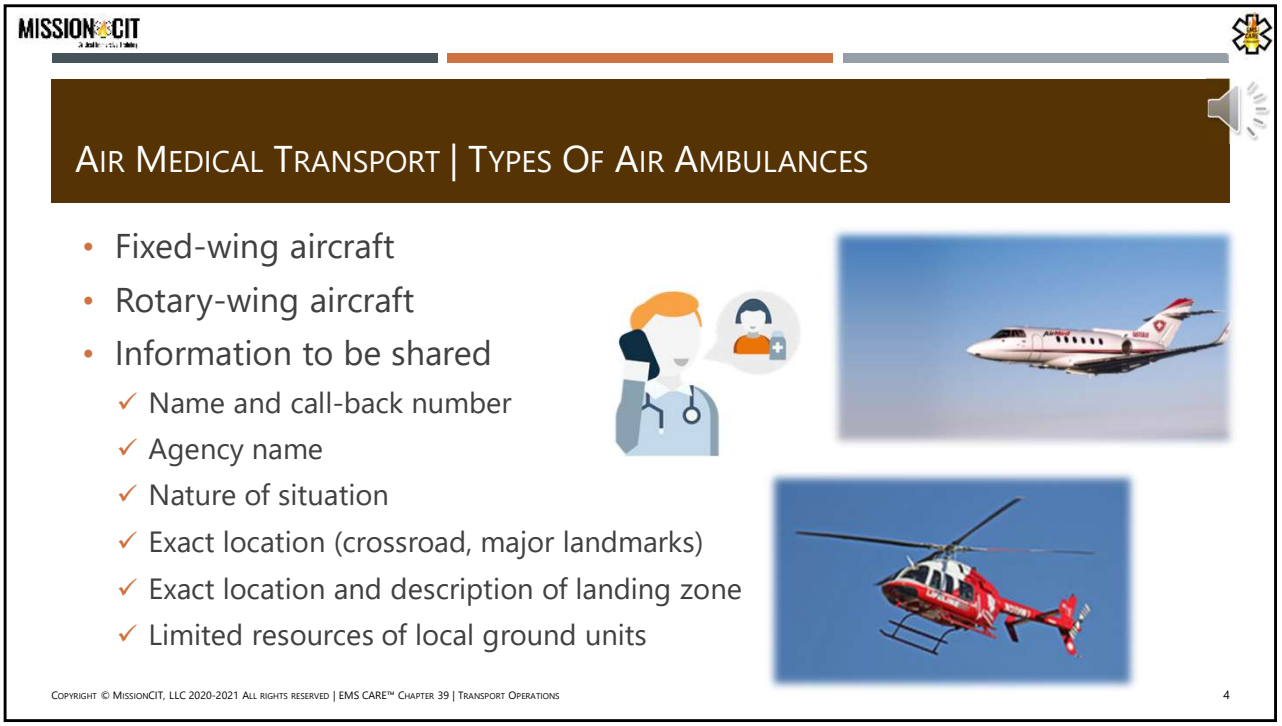
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With time, air medical transport has become a well-established part of our EMS system because it speeds up the transfer of patients.

There are times when helicopter transport may benefit your patient. It's up to you to decide when it's time to fly the bird. The question is, are you using a logical reason for transporting your patient by air?

- To be exact, does the patient's condition warrant the risk of using air transport?
- Will the use of air transport truly save you time?

When you consider using air medical transport, think realistically. Evaluate the patient. Be honest with yourself and never falter. Take some time to read the different indications of air medical transport mentioned on this slide.



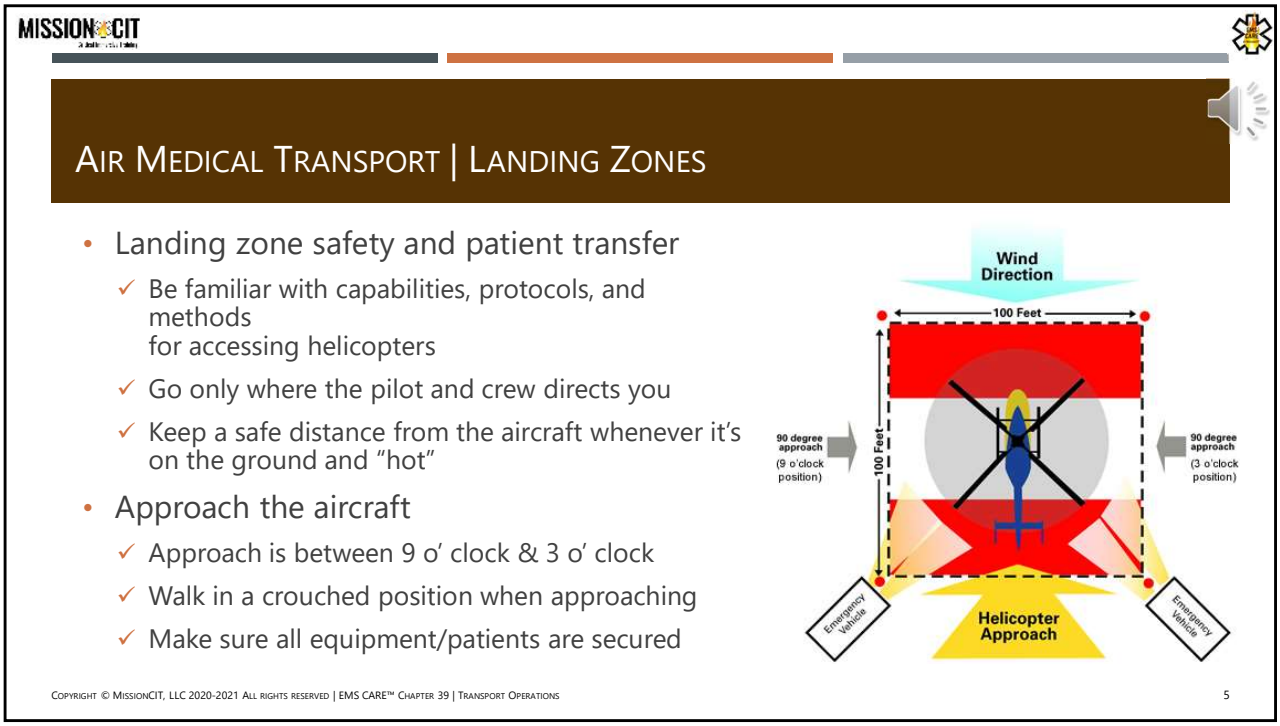
Air ambulances are used to evacuate medical and trauma patients.

Depending on the distance, either fixed-wing or rotary-wing aircraft are used.

While fixed-wing aircraft are used for inter-hospital patient transfers over distances greater than 100 to 150 miles.
Rotary-wing aircraft are helicopters that are more efficient for shorter distances. They are used for short-

haul, trauma-related emergency flights when time is of the essence.

During the instance of air medical transport, key information including name, nature of the situation, exact location, and description of the landing zone should be shared.



Landing zone safety steps should be followed while boarding the helicopter and transferring the patient.

- Firstly, you should stay away from the helicopter and go only where the pilot or crew member directs you.
- Remember to keep a safe distance from the aircraft whenever it is on the ground and hot, which means the helicopter blades are spinning.
- Stay outside the landing zone perimeter unless directed to come to the aircraft by a member of the flight crew.

- If you are asked to enter the landing zone, stay away from the tail rotor; the tips of its blades move so rapidly that they are invisible.
- Always approach the helicopter from the front, even if it is not running.
- Lastly, when you approach the aircraft, walk in a crouched position. Remember the proper approach is between nine-o'-clock and three-o'-clock.

This brings us to the end of this chapter and in the next, we will learn about special considerations.