

SOP 9.04 – Helicopter Taskings

Section 9 – AMSAR Services

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Effective Date – 1 September 2018

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Electronically Controlled Document

Purpose

To enable LSVComms operators and State Duty Officers to task the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter both during and outside patrol hours.

Scope

LSVComms operators, Helicopter Crew and State Duty Officers.

Information

The Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service is capable of static line rescue, search, and transport operations. It has an approximate endurance of 3 hrs, and its equipment includes first aid, resuscitation, defibrillation and frequency homing equipment.

Procedures

Patrol Hours - Only when signed on with LSVComms

1. Request for tasking received by LSVComms
2. LSVComms contact Helicopter Crew and request they prepare for immediate departure.
3. LSVComms contact Manager – Lifesaving Operations and request authorisation for tasking.
4. LSVComms contact RCC, activate aircraft or stand down aircraft as per instructions from Manager – Lifesaving Operations.

Should the Manager – Lifesaving Operations be unable to be contacted, the Director of Lifesaving Services is authorised to activate the aircraft in their place. If neither Manager – Lifesaving Operations or the Director of Lifesaving Services can be contacted, the State Emergency Management Officer is to be contacted to provide authorisation. As final redundancy, if none of the aforementioned can be contacted the State Duty Officer may task the Aircraft only if it is at the request of Rescue Coordination Centre and a pager message is issued concurrently.

The aircraft shall not activate without prior authorisation as specified above.

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Out of Patrol Hours – When not signed on with LSVComms

1. Request for tasking received by LSVComms or State Duty Officer
2. LSVComms or State Duty Officer contact Manager – Lifesaving Operations, requesting activation of aircraft.
3. Manager – Lifesaving Operations will advise aircraft and crew availability and response time.

Should the Manager – Lifesaving Operations be unable to be contacted, the Director – Lifesaving Services may fulfil the duties in tasking of the aircraft.

Community Goodwill or Westpac Promotional Events

While recognising the exposure and goodwill the helicopters generates in the community, they are first and foremost a lifesaving service and patrol and rescue activities must ALWAYS take precedence over any publicity and goodwill gestures that the aircraft is scheduled for or capable of.

Goodwill or Westpac promotional event requests are to be provided to the Manager – Lifesaving Operations for consideration. No offer or indication of participation is to be given prior to approval to do so by the Manager – Lifesaving Operations.

Club Requests for attendance at events and activities can be made using the Special Event Helicopter Request form, which can found on the LSV website under [Club Administration](#).

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