



September 2, 2009

Life Net of New York and Connecticut's Life Star Helicopter Programs Participate in First of it's Kind Joint Outreach

On September 1, 2009, representatives from the Connecticut Life Star and Life Net of New York helicopter programs collaborated on a joint outreach at the Warren Fire Department in Warren, Connecticut. The joint landing zone class attracted over 50 participants from nine different area departments. This is the first time that these programs have collaborated together to provide a landing zone / safety presentation. Life Star is based at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut and is operated by Air Methods Corporation's Hospital Based Services division.

The presentation started with Air Methods / Life Star pilot Ric Shotwell providing an overview of operational safety issues associated with working around Air Methods aircraft. Operational differences between the airframes operated by Life Star and Life Net were reviewed for the participants. Life Star Chief Flight Nurse Lisa Graziano then provided an overview of medical crew operations and request procedures. Following Lisa, Life Net of New York's Business Manager, Jonathan Gryniuk gave an overview of Air Methods Corporation and the Life Net of New York system. Following Mr. Gryniuk's talk, a Life Star BK-117 aircraft was flown in for a landing and hands-on demonstration on site.

Life Net of New York aircraft share comparable flight times to those of the Life Star aircraft in the western Connecticut area and are frequently requested for mutual aid assistance into Connecticut scene calls. Recognizing some of the operational differences between the programs, Warren Fire Department proactively contacted both services and requested that they participate in a joint outreach activity. Participants were encouraged to coordinate aircraft requests through one central communications center in order to hinder "helicopter shopping" during times of inclement weather.