



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Tuesday, November 7, 2017

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## **HELICOPTERS LANDING AT WEBER POINT** **Stockton Fire Department Air Ambulance Training Exercises**

(Stockton, CA) – On Wednesday, November 8, 2017, helicopters will be taking off and landing downtown Stockton at Weber Point. The purpose of this extraordinary event is to conduct air ambulance training exercises with the Stockton Fire Department.

Weather permitting, over the course of three training days, November 8, November 13, and November 16, Stockton Fire Department personnel will learn the skills required to load critically ill or injured patients onto a helicopter for transportation to emergency medical treatment. Air ambulances are dispatched when local hospitals do not have the medical expertise or capacity to address the needs of a patient(s).

“Television makes it look easy,” shares Stockton Fire Division Chief Ken Johnson. “However, it requires very specialized training and skills to work with, and near, air ambulances and their crews. This is important training for all first responders. We are fortunate to have local partners willing to take the time and dedicate resources, so that we can more effectively serve the needs of our community.”

Weber Point was selected for its central location and proximity to downtown, Interstate 5, and waterfront location. REACH Air Medical Services will be facilitating the exercises with a Bell 407 Helicopter, flight crew, and air ambulance medical personnel.

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Stockton Fire Department training will begin with classroom instruction at the training facility located just a few blocks away at Company No. 2, 110 W. Sonora Street. The exercises involving the helicopter will begin at approximately 11:00 a.m. Stockton Fire will practice designating and operating a landing zone near aircraft; working with air ambulance paramedics and nurses; loading and securing patients for launch and flight; and practicing ground-to-air communications.

During the exercises, sections of Weber Point will be closed to the public. Members of the media are encouraged to cover the exercises within the safety parameters established by the Stockton Fire Department.

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