

# Heliport

STARS air ambulance will be landing directly on the new Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg rooftop heliport, saving up to 30 minutes transport time for critically ill and injured patients. STARS typically responds to the most critically ill and injured patients who would otherwise be transported to hospital by ground ambulance using lights and sirens.

HSC will be the first health facility in Manitoba to have a heliport. The 60-by-60-foot rooftop landing pad, located atop the new Diagnostic Centre of Excellence building, will meet an H1 Heliport Standard and accommodate twin-engine helicopters. The heliport will provide direct elevator access to both adult and children's emergency rooms, operating theatres and intensive care units.

## Benefits of the HSC heliport

The heliport eliminates the need for STARS to land at the Winnipeg airport and then move patients to HSC by ground ambulance.

Landing directly at HSC will reduce risks involved with transferring patients in and out of ground ambulances.

## Background

STARS uses heliports but does not own or operate them.

The heliport at HSC Winnipeg is owned and operated by HSC Winnipeg, an operating division of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. The heliport is federally regulated by Transport Canada.

STARS' anticipates more than 600 STARS emergency responses in Manitoba per year, with a majority of patients landing at HSC in downtown Winnipeg.

According to STARS there were 568 emergency flights in 2015, and higher mission volumes expected once the helipad is operational.

Heliports are an essential part of helicopter EMS systems, with more than half of Canada's approximately 400 heliports located at rural and urban hospitals.

Regina General Hospital and Estevan's St. Joseph's hospital heliports opened in 2013.

There are 63 rural and urban hospital helipads in Alberta, including 5 in Calgary and 4 in Edmonton.

Hospital heliports in Central and Western Canada:

- o Ontario – 86
- o Alberta – 63
- o British Columbia –32
- o Saskatchewan – 3
- o Manitoba – 1

### **How much noise will be generated by the helicopter?**

STARS has a *Fly Friendly* policy which directs STARS pilots to reduce noise signatures as much as possible when approaching and departing landing areas.

STARS pilots reduce sound levels by taking flight paths around high-density residential areas when possible, and approaching hospitals and landing zones at the highest altitude possible, as deemed safe by the pilots and Transport Canada regulatory standards.

STARS helicopters can reach up to 100 decibels when landing and taking off, compared to approximately 150 decibels for ground ambulances using sirens. There will be one or two landings every 24 hours.

It is anticipated that the helicopter will approach and depart the heliport using a northwest profile. Prevailing wind conditions may affect day-to-day operations and cause the approach/departure profiles to change.

### **Who can I contact to provide feedback regarding helicopter operations?**

Please call 204-786-4647 or visit STARS' website at [www.stars.ca/mb](http://www.stars.ca/mb).

### **If it safe to land a helicopter in the middle of the city?**

STARS is a safety-focused organization that has never experienced an aircraft incident in its 30 year history.

Before the first helicopter can land, the heliport at HSC and its operation was certified by Transport Canada. The certification ensures the heliport Emergency Response Plan – including Fire Protection, Extinguishing Agents and Equipment, and Training for Safety Personnel - meet Transport Canada requirements for the safe operation of a heliport that will accommodate a helicopter emergency medical service.

In the unlikely event of an incident STARS has identified alternate, safe landing areas in the city. These are areas where an unavoidable landing may take place with a reasonable expectancy of no injuries to persons or damage to property on the surface.

### **What happens if a patient is not headed to HSC Winnipeg?**

Patients needing transport to other Winnipeg hospitals will continue being flown to the Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, or the City of Winnipeg heliport at Tyne Ave near Grey St, and transferred by ground ambulance to the hospital.

### **Will I notice an odour after the helicopter lands/departs HSC?**

STARS does not anticipate that residents/businesses will notice an odour after the helicopter lands or departs.

### **For more information:**

[www.hsc.mb.ca](http://www.hsc.mb.ca)   [www.wrha.mb.ca](http://www.wrha.mb.ca)   [www.stars.ca/mb](http://www.stars.ca/mb)