NAEMT Position Statement
Air Medical Transportation Safety

Statement:
NAEMT strongly supports the development and enforcement of evidence-based, mission appropriate safety standards for air medical transportation that enhance the safety of both patients and crew members. The federal government should bring together all stakeholder groups to reach a consensus on these standards and incorporate them into federal regulation. The federal government should work with states to ensure the full enforcement of all air medical transport regulation. State governments through their EMS offices should have regulatory authority over the medical and EMS systems components of air medical transport. .

NAEMT also supports the research and development of evidence based protocols for the utilization of air and ground medical transport that best serve the needs of patients.

Background:
NAEMT is very concerned with the alarming and increasing rate of accidents, injuries and deaths occurring in the air medical transportation industry. The number of these occurrences is unacceptable and must be addressed. Since 2000, there have been many scientific papers and reports published by agencies and organizations including the GAO, NTSB, Annals of Emergency Medicine, Congressional Research Service, and the Air Medical Physicians Association identifying a myriad of air medical safety issues and recommended solutions. However no solutions have been implemented to date by either the federal government or the industry.

References:
"Air Medical Safety in Congress," Dallas, Texas, July 25, 2008, Association of Air Medical Services.
"A Safety Review and Risk Assessment in Air Medical Transport," November, 2002, Ira S. Blumen, M.D. and the UCAN Safety Committee.
Vision 0 Initiative (http://visionzero.aams.org/)
"10.5-Year U.S. HEMS Safety, July 25, 2008, Roy Fox, Chief, Flight Safety, Bell Helicopter

Adopted: January 9, 2009