

**SUBJECT:** Helipad Prevailing Wind Speed

**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for safe landing at the VUMC helipad during wind turbulence.

**POLICY:** The Skyport helipad located on top of Vanderbilt Hospital has generated concern about wind conditions facing both the east and west sides of the building. Updrafts on these sides sometimes make landings and takeoffs more challenging. These conditions prompt the following policy.

All air medical programs using the VUMC's helipad, located at latitude **36<sup>0</sup>08'33 N.**, longitude **86<sup>0</sup>48'03 W.**, will comply with the following:

- Takeoffs and landings shall be prohibited when wind gusts exceed 35 knots.
- Bell 206 aircraft are limited to 35 knot wind speed and/or a 15 knot gust spread.
- Any aircraft approaching the Skyport will be notified by flight-communications (FC) when gusts are 35 knots and higher or there is a 15 knot gust spread. They will direct the incoming aircraft to an alternative landing area.
- Any aircraft positioned on the helipad before gusts develop will be notified by FC when winds will allow for departure.