



# MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

### 720 – SEARCH ASSISTANCE BY “FLIGHT FOR LIFE” HELICOPTER

**GENERAL ORDER:** 2022-XX  
**ISSUED:** March 15, 2022

**EFFECTIVE:** March 15, 2022

**REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:**  
Assistant Chief Paul Formolo  
**DATE:** February 18, 2022

**ACTION:** Amends General Order 2017-06 (January 18, 2017)

**WILEAG STANDARD(S):** NONE

#### **720.00 PURPOSE**

The Milwaukee Regional Medical Center "Flight For Life" helicopter is available for use by department members for air searches. This procedure shall be followed when requesting and using this service.

#### **720.05 DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR SERVICE**

##### **A. EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES**

1. Supervisors may request an air search whenever they determine that exigent circumstances exist for lost or missing persons who may be in imminent danger, and that using air surveillance would increase the probability of locating those person(s).
2. Exigent circumstances shall be determined by:
  - a. Inaccessible areas (e.g., river banks, industrial sites, heavy underbrush)
  - b. Weather conditions (e.g., extreme temperatures)
  - c. Time elements (e.g., sick or injured persons)
  - d. Terrain (e.g., frozen lakes/ponds, dense shrubbery)
  - e. Time of day. "Flight For Life" helicopter is not available to conduct searches during hours of darkness.

##### **B. SHIFT COMMANDER NOTIFICATION**

Supervisors shall contact their shift commander with the appropriate information.

#### **720.10 NOTIFICATIONS**

##### **A. SENSITIVE CRIMES NOTIFICATION**

Shift commanders shall ensure that the Sensitive Crimes Division is aware of the critical missing.

**B. NOTIFICATION TO NIGHT WATCH COMMANDER**

Upon receiving a request for air surveillance, shift commanders shall contact the night watch commander or higher authority.

C. Night watch commanders or a higher authority determining that an air search is appropriate, shall have the supervisor at the Criminal Investigation Bureau (extension [REDACTED]) request air search assistance and provide the following information:

1. Reason the "Flight for Life" helicopter is needed;
2. Location of search;
3. A suitable location for landing of the "Flight for Life" helicopter;
4. Name of the supervisor in charge at the scene.

**720.15 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU RESPONSIBILITY**

The supervisor at the Criminal Investigation Bureau (extension [REDACTED]) shall be responsible for:

1. Requesting the "Flight For Life" helicopter through the Flight For Life Dispatch Center at [REDACTED]
2. Identifying him/herself by rank and name.
3. Providing the location of a landing site.
4. Identifying the supervisor in charge at the scene.
5. Assigning a lieutenant to respond to the search/landing site, if one has not yet been assigned.

**720.20 RESTRICTIONS**

Whenever "Flight For Life" is used to assist the Milwaukee Police Department in searches for missing or lost persons, the following restrictions apply:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**720.25 POLICE LIEUTENANT RESPONSIBILITY - AFTER ACTION REPORT**

- A. Upon completion of the search, file a *Department Memorandum* (form PM-9E) after action report regarding the use of the "Flight For Life" helicopter in the investigation.
- B. The after action report shall contain:
1. Identity of pilot;
  2. Identity of person being searched for;
  3. Reason the helicopter was requested;
  4. Areas searched;
  5. Duration of search;
  6. Results of the search;
  7. Any additional important facts or circumstances.
- C. The after action report shall be disseminated to the following:
1. Original to the assistant chief of the Criminal Investigation Bureau
  2. Copies to:
    - Assistant chief - Patrol Bureau
    - Assistant chief - Administration Bureau
    - Commanding officer of the district where the search occurred

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B.N.' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN  
CHIEF OF POLICE