

San Francisco General Hospital Addition And Heliport

San Francisco General Hospital is proceeding with plans to build a 384,550 sq. ft. eight-floor-plus "Health Tower" with a helicopter-landing pad on its roof. This expansion will cover the south parking lot that is situated between the present hospital and 23rd Street. It will be a mammoth building, reaching well over 100 feet. Its 340 by 215-ft. footprint would be large enough to cover an entire football field. If this plan goes forward, there will be years of increased congestion at the already limited 23rd Street access to Potrero Hill.

There is no doubt about SF General's requirement to conform to current seismic standards. However, the medical center is also struggling with major issues of changing demographics that are reducing the need for some services. To keep its current funding status and requisite volume of patients, the trauma unit is proposing building a heliport that would enlarge its service to cover all of northern California, from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Oregon border. This arrangement would necessitate expanded trauma facilities and frequent helicopter landings at the hospital. Medi-vac helicopters are large, loud and dangerous. They would fly low over Potrero Hill and the Mission District, taking off and landing at all hours.

This heliport would provide a service by, but not primarily for, the citizens of San Francisco. The city and neighborhoods surrounding SF General are being asked to carry more than their fair share of the hospital needs of the whole of northern California.



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MedEvac Helicopter Crashes, Killing 2

Medic Jumps From Falling Chopper

UPDATED: 9:46 a.m. EST January 18, 2002

CLEVELAND -- A medical helicopter crashed into a ball of flames in Cleveland, killing two people.

The chopper taking off from University Hospitals just after midnight hit one of the buildings and caught fire.



Amazingly, a third person on board, 29-year-old medic Joe Paoletta of Brecksville, jumped from the helicopter as it was falling. He is the only survivor. He was transferred to MetroHealth Medical Center, where he's listed in fair condition with burns over 25 percent of his body.

The flight nurse, Kelly Conti, 38, of Wickliffe, and pilot William Spence, 51, of Marshallville, died in the crash. The hospital said that Spence was a former National Guard pilot.

Another helicopter pilot, Capt. Thom Bencin, told NewsChannel5 that the MedEvac No. 8 was on its way to pick up a patient. It had trouble getting off the helipad and it clipped the 10th floor of Lerner Tower.

Patients inside the hospital were not affected.

Witnesses said they heard two loud booms and saw huge flames shooting into the air.

"There was an explosion and sparks everywhere," one witness said.

The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are on their way to Cleveland to investigate what happened.



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Tenant's Water Shm

SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS

(in decibels - dB)

	160	
Jet engine - close up		
	150	Snare drums played hard at 6 inches away Trumpet peaks at 5 inches away
	140	Rock singer screaming in microphone (lips on mic)
Threshold of pain		
	130	
Pneumatic (jack) hammer		Cymbal crash
Planes on airport runway	120	
		Fender guitar amplifier, full volume at 10 inches away
Power tools	110	
Subway (not the sandwich shop)	100	
	90	
Heavy truck traffic		
	80	Typical home stereo listening level Acoustic guitar, played with finger at 1 foot away
Average factory		
	70	
Busy street		Small orchestra
	60	Conversational speech at 1 foot away
Average office noise	50	
Quiet conversation	40	
Quiet office	30	
Quiet living room	20	
	10	Quiet recording studio
	0	Threshold of hearing for healthy youths

This table is courtesy of Coolmath.com. Please visit!
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Make Our Neighborhood A

No Fly Zone

***** Stop the Choppers *****

Oppose scheduled helicopter landings at
San Francisco General Hospital

Make your voice heard at the Heath Commission meeting

Tuesday, March 4
3:00 p.m.
Health Commission
101 Grove Street