

**Department of Public Health  
San Francisco General Hospital  
Medical Helipad Project**

**Why is a medical helipad needed for the City of San Francisco ?**

1. ***Response to Disasters and Multiple Casualty Incidents*** – In the event of an earthquake, explosion, need to evacuate SFGH, large scale fire or transit crash with many victims, a helipad will provide rapid access from SFGH to other Bay Area Trauma Centers for injured adults and children when SFGH has reached its capacity to provide trauma care. If a disaster or large scale multiple casualty incident occurred in other parts of the Bay Area, a helipad allows the rapid transfer of patients to SFGH for care. SFGH Surgical teams and their equipment could also be transported to regional hospitals to provide critical trauma care to injured patients.
2. ***Critically Injured Young Children*** – A helipad will provide rapid transport from SFGH to the nearest children's level 1 trauma center. It is estimated that 4-6 young children per year would need the rapid transfer that is only available by helicopter to provide the children with the highest level of care only available at a Pediatric Trauma Center.
3. ***Transport Critically Injured Patients to SFGH*** – Air transport is frequently the only way to get an injured person to the Trauma Center when minutes matter. As a Level 1 Trauma Center, SFGH has the expertise to serve as a resource and referral center to our larger community. Patients who are injured in the waters of SF Bay and recreation areas in and around SF Bay [Alcatraz, Angle Island, GGRNA] need to be medical helicoptered to the closest Trauma Center which is SFGH.
4. ***Receive critically ill and injured patients for other hospitals in San Francisco*** - SFGH helipad could also receive adult and pediatric patients designated for the Burn Unit at St. Francis Memorial, the limb re-implantation service at Davies Medical Center and critically ill pregnant women, infants, children and other adult patients requiring the tertiary care services of UCSF Medical Center.

**What is the current status of the SFGH Medical Helipad Project ?**

SFGH staff are now working with the San Francisco Planning Department on the Environmental Impact Report [EIR] for a hospital based roof top medical helipad. The first major step was conducting a scoping meeting for the medical helipad EIR on August 25, 2004. The Initial Study for the EIR was published on October 29, 2005. The Planning Department mailed Notices of the Initial Study availability to 4900 SFGH neighbors, community members, neighborhood organizations, businesses and groups. The Initial Study is also available on line [[www.dph.sf.ca.us/helipad](http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/helipad)] and in the Public Library [Potrero, Mission, Bayview Branches and Main Library]. A 30 day public comment period continues until November 29, 2005.

**What are the next steps in the Environmental Review Process ?**

The next step is to complete the technical background studies and to publish the Draft EIR. This may take a number of months to prepare. A 45 day public comment period follows the publication of the draft EIR. A Planning Commission hearing will take place to review the Draft EIR and also take public comments. Written responses will then be prepared which addresses the public comments. The comments and responses document and revisions to the draft EIR will be presented to the Planning Commission for consideration of an EIR certification for the medical helipad.