

# Memorandum

**To:** Files  
**CC:** Eric Miller  
**From:** Mike Mulcahey  
**Date:** 12/2/2010  
**Re:** Mercy Flight

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Mercy Flight has been consulted on operations around wind farms as part of the discussions about a possible wind turbine project in the Towns of Perry and Sheldon, Wyoming County.

On November 16, 2010 I called the Western New York Office Mercy Flight. The phone number is 716-626-4100. I spoke with the Lead Pilot, Stan Snopkowski, to inquire about potential impacts of wind turbines on Mercy Flight operation or response times.

According to Mr. Snopkowski on-scene pick-ups must be requested by local authorities such as fire, police, or other emergency department personnel. Mercy Flight provides training to local emergency response teams to cover what constitutes a suitable landing area for an on-scene pick up. In general, Mercy Flight on-scene pick-ups are done close to roads. Mercy Flight helicopters operate on visual flight rules (i.e. not instrument approach) so visibility must be sufficient to see obstructions. Mercy Flights are now equipped with night vision goggles to provide visibility after dark. Mr. Snopkowski indicated that they just need to know where turbines are and stay away, but wind turbines are basically no different than water towers or other obstructions. He added that there are wind farms in existence within Mercy Flight's area of operation and they don't pose a problem. Our conversation lasted about six (6) minutes.