



## **Flight For Life: Managing SAR calls during COVID-19**

Greetings Sheriffs and SAR Team Leaders,

I hope you are all well and staying healthy. I wanted to pass along the latest from Flight For Life Colorado in regards to our response to backcountry missions and our efforts to keep you and your team members safe, and to also let you know that we are still responding to assist with and transport patients from the backcountry with our helicopters.

We also recognize that your teams will probably be responding with a scaled down response. All of our flight crews are required to pass a modified wildland pack test twice a year and participate in a wilderness medicine course annually. All of our helicopters carry whole blood on the aircraft 24/7, SKED evacuation stretchers, and backpacks with overnight kits for our crews. Simply put, we are here to help you while maintaining our role as critical care medical providers.

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4/16/20

- Lift Ticket, Avalanche and Rescue Deployment cards that were current on 02/15/2020 will be honored through 06/01/2020
- After 06/01/2020 FFL will still conduct Lift Ticket operations for SAR agencies that were enrolled in the program for 2019/2020
- SAR personnel with COVID symptoms should not respond to calls
- SAR personnel should always wear masks, practice hand hygiene before and after patient contact, and before getting on the helicopter. If surgical masks are not available, homemade masks are acceptable
- When practical, maintain social distancing
- Screen the patient for COVID risk on contact; check patient pulse oximetry for undetected hypoxia. FFL crews will determine level of PPE required
- All patients will be masked, and oxygen applied
- The FFL medical crews will wrap the patient in the Life Blanket liner or other protective disposable barrier for patient isolation during transport
- FFL med crews and pilots will wear N-95 masks and eye protection during patient care and transport

As always, thank you for your partnership.

For questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me;

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