

VANGUARD HELIPAD

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Safety Procedures

- Access to the helipad is restricted to helicopter crew, passengers, their passenger's taxi/limousine and our personnel.
- The passengers and crew must be aware that the pad is immediately beside the River Thames, which is a fast flowing river and at the same time very tidal. They must all keep away from the edge of the pad; if they don't and fall they could either be killed on the fore-shore when the tide is out or be drowned when the tide is in.
- When the helicopter is landing or taking off those personnel on the pad must stand to the side with their back to the wall. They should take into account the down draft as a helicopter comes into land or takes off is considerable. For instance if the helicopter weighs 2 tons, 2 tons of air is being blown at considerable force down to the ground picking up anything loose items such as dust, glasses, clothing. It also blows hairstyles to bits.
- The pilot of the helicopter is the captain of his aircraft and his instructions must be followed at all times. A member of the Vanguard team will also be present and they are also responsible for ensuring that the area is suitable clear of personnel and obstructions to ensure the helicopter can safely land/take off. His instructions should be strictly adhered to.
- Anyone and their accompanying vehicles and property are on the helipad entirely at their own risk. If that is not acceptable then they must not go on to the helipad.
- The tail rotor of the helicopter is absolutely lethal and if walking to the helicopter with the engine running on the ground, only do so where the pilot can clearly see you i.e. you must only approach from the front of the helicopter, the pilot will indicate if this is safe to do so, never approach from the rear of the helicopter as the pilot will not be able to see you and the tail rotor could kill you.
- The site is a strictly no smoking area. There is a bus shelter immediately outside the gate which is often used for smokers.
- If a vehicle is given permission to drive onto the helipad, they must temporarily park at the top of the ramp. Under no circumstances should they go further onto the helipad without being authorised by one of the Vanguard team.
- Should there be freezing weather there is trace heating in the ramp although it is possible for snow to lie. If that is the case, then be very careful when walking up/down the ramp. At the bottom of the ramp there is an electric gate which is usually closed. There is a call button on the right side of the gate for it to be opened.
- If children are accompanying passengers, then they must be with their parent/guardian at all times. They must not be allowed to run around and play. A helipad is a very dangerous place for loose children. If you take into account the noise of a helicopter, the vibration of the down draft could easily trigger a panic attack; they could run into the landing area and be written off! The pilot would try to take evasive action and potentially crash his aircraft; his passengers and crew ending up brown bread. Conclusion – no loose children; a parent or guardian must hold their hands and restrain them at all times. Positively no lone children.

Many Thanks,

The Vanguard Helipad Team

