



# ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY

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## **ADBSS Helicopter Safety Protocols**

Helicopter safety protocols are important to ensure the safety of our volunteer passengers, including youth, during helicopter flights. Here are some key safety protocols that should be followed:

1. **Seatbelt Usage:** All passengers should be properly secured with seatbelts or harnesses before the helicopter takes off. It is essential to ensure that seatbelts are adjusted and fastened correctly.
2. **Pre-flight Briefing:** Before the flight, a pre-flight briefing should be conducted to inform all passengers about safety procedures and what to expect during the helicopter ride. This includes explaining the use of seatbelts, emergency exits, and how to communicate with the pilot or crew.
3. **Age and Size Restrictions:** Helicopter operators may have specific age and size restrictions for youth passengers. It is important to comply with these restrictions to ensure the safety of young passengers.
4. **Adult Supervision:** Depending on the age and maturity of the youth passengers, it is advisable to have adult supervision during the helicopter flight. An adult can help ensure that safety protocols are followed and provide guidance to the youth passengers if needed.
5. **Emergency Procedures:** All passengers should be informed about emergency procedures, such as how to exit the helicopter in case of an emergency landing or evacuation. This information should be communicated clearly and, in an age-appropriate manner.
6. **Follow Instructions:** All passengers should be instructed to follow the directions of the pilot or crew at all times. This includes staying seated when instructed, keeping hands and feet inside the helicopter, and not tampering with any equipment or controls. It is imperative that all passengers, including youth, remain in clear sight of the pilot while loading, unloading and entering the designated helicopter landing zone(s).
7. **Weather Conditions:** Helicopter flights should not take place in adverse weather conditions that may pose a risk to the safety of passengers. Operators should closely monitor weather forecasts and make informed decisions about flight cancellations or rescheduling if necessary.

8. Safety Equipment: Helicopters should be equipped with necessary safety equipment, such as life jackets or flotation devices, especially when flying over water bodies. Operators should ensure that all safety equipment is in good condition and readily accessible if needed.

9. Maintenance and Inspections: Regular maintenance and inspections of the helicopter should be carried out to ensure its airworthiness and safety. Operators should comply with all maintenance and inspection requirements as per aviation regulations.

10. Communication: Helicopter operators should maintain effective communication with all passengers, including youth passengers and their parents or guardians. They should address any concerns or questions and provide updates regarding the flight schedule or any changes.

11. If at all possible, family members will not be transported by helicopter on the same flights, either outbound or inbound.

12. All passengers, including youth, shall follow the Department's Flight Safety Protocol.

13. Helicopter safety shall also include adhering to the Department's protocol for slinging loads and materials to/from the site and maintaining the prescribed clearance zones.

Remember, these protocols may vary depending on the specific helicopter operator, jurisdiction, and age of the youth passengers. It is crucial to always follow the instructions and guidelines provided by the helicopter operator for a safe and enjoyable flight and project experience.