



## HCMC Helistop

### Project Overview

Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC), Minnesota's first and largest Level I Trauma Center, opened a state-of-the-art helistop in Nov. 2015, located on the roof of the main hospital in close proximity to its emergency department, operating rooms and ICUs. HCMC has one of the largest and busiest emergency departments in the state, with a volume of 110,000 patients, including 3,000 adult and pediatric trauma patients each year.

HCMC now has the most efficient access for complex trauma and critical care patients arriving by air transport.

### Project Facts

- The new helistop is on the roof of the building where the operating rooms, intensive care units, and emergency department are located. It will be the primary landing area for incoming trauma and critical care patients arriving by air transport. A second helistop - located on top of the parking ramp on 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Park Ave. - will remain available if needed.
- The new helistop is heated to melt snow and ice making it safer for staff and patients.
- The helistop is elevated above the buildings to give the pilots better access without having to maneuver between surrounding buildings. For safety reasons, only one helicopter is permitted on the helistop at a time.
- The project included construction of the helistop itself and installation of an additional elevator to serve the helistop.
- More than 350 patients are transported to HCMC by air every year.
- Helicopters fly in from up to 220 miles away, which includes cities like Fargo, Bemidji, Sioux Falls, Duluth, Northern Iowa, and Western Wisconsin. Patients flown in from communities farther away will fly via medical airplane (fixed-wing), land at St. Paul Airport, and complete the transport to HCMC via ambulance.
- HCMC is a member of the Life Link III Consortium. Life Link III is a critical care air transportation service that operates from a network of six bases located throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin.
- Life Link III transports patients to HCMC from other hospitals as well as directly from the scenes of accidents in rural areas, providing both helicopter and airplane transportation 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- The Life Link III transport teams consist of a Certified Flight Nurse, Certified Flight Paramedic, and an experienced pilot.

### Project Funding

- The cost of the helistop project, including the construction of the elevators, is \$3.8 million.
- The new helistop opened in November, 2015.

### Construction and Design Partners

- Architect: BWBR
- Contractor: Mortenson Construction