

## CHAPTER 113: HELICOPTER OPERATIONS

### Section

- 113.01 Definitions
- 113.02 Regulation of landing areas; exceptions
- 113.99 Penalty
- 113.100 Effective Date and Revision of Original Ordinance

(Ord. passed 2-6-1995; Am. Ord. passed 11-6-2023)

### § 113.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

#### **(1) Heliport, unlimited use.**

The words **heliport, unlimited use** shall mean a landing area used by helicopters which, in addition, includes all necessary passenger and cargo facilities, maintenance and overhaul, fueling, service, storage, tie-down areas, hangars, and other necessary buildings and open spaces.

#### **(2) Heliport, limited use.**

The words **heliport, limited use** shall mean a landing area used for the landing and taking off of helicopters, including all necessary passenger and cargo facilities, fueling, and emergency service facilities.

#### **(3) Helistop, unlimited use.**

The words **helistop, unlimited use** shall mean any land used for the landing and takeoff of helicopters for the purpose of picking up or discharging passengers or cargo, not including fueling, refueling, or service facilities.

#### **(4) Helistop, limited use.**

The words **helistop, limited use** shall mean a landing area for the purpose of takeoff or landing of private helicopters for the purpose of picking up or discharging passengers or cargo, and shall not be open to use by any helicopter without prior permission having been obtained.

Helistops of both limited or unlimited use may be established on the tops of buildings.

(Ord. passed 2-6-1995; Am. Ord. passed 11-6-2023)

*Am. Ord. passed 11-6-2023*

**§ 113.02 REGULATION OF LANDING AREAS****(1) Landings only at designated facilities.**

It shall be unlawful, except in cases of emergency by the helicopter, for a helicopter to take off or land within the County except at a designated heliport or helistop, as defined in this Chapter.

In spite of the foregoing, infrequent, special take-offs or landings may be allowed pursuant to a permit from the County Manager issued under subsection (G) hereof.

**(2) Exceptions.**

The provisions of this Chapter shall be inapplicable to helicopter operations providing or supporting medical transport, search and rescue services, fire operations, public safety, law enforcement, or military operations.

**(3) Construction and maintenance of landing areas.****(A) Area requirements.**

(1) Area requirements for heliports, whether for limited or unlimited use shall be as follows: The minimum landing area for each heliport shall be two hundred (200) feet by four hundred (400) feet, not including tie-down facilities, taxiways, terminal buildings, parking areas, service areas, and areas for other necessary facilities.

(2) The area requirements for helistops, whether for limited or unlimited use shall be as follows: The minimum landing area for helistops, whether for limited or unlimited use shall be one hundred (100) feet by one hundred (100) feet, but if the helistop is on a building, the minimum landing area shall be forty (40) feet by forty (40) feet. The landing area shall be surrounded by a fence at least four (4) feet in height.

**(B) Approach zones.**

Approach zones to a heliport or helistop must be sufficiently clear of obstructions to provide a slope of 8:1 (approximately seven (7) degrees measured from the horizontal). If necessary, a curved approach may be used.

**(C) High voltage transmission lines.**

Heliports and helistops shall not be established in close proximity to high voltage transmission lines.

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### **(D) Landing area alignment.**

The landing area shall be aligned to give maximum "into-the-wind" operation.

### **(E) Surfaces.**

The actual area used for landing must be made of such material that it will be free of dust, loose ground, and particles of concrete which may be blown about by the down blast of air of the rotor, and must be properly drained.

### **(F) Federal aviation agency standards.**

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of these standards and the standards and regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), such conflict shall be resolved in favor of the applicable FAA standards and regulations.

### **(G) Special landing or take-off permits.**

The County Manager may issue special permits for the landing or taking off of helicopters at other than designated heliports and helistops upon his satisfaction that:

- (1) All FAA standards and restrictions will be complied with;
- (2) The proposed take-off or landing will not conflict with other scheduled public or private activities; and
- (3) The public health, safety and welfare will not be jeopardized.

(Ord. passed 2-6-1995; Am. Ord. passed 11-6-2023)

### **§ 113.99 PENALTY.**

- (A) A violation of this ordinance may be addressed by any of the civil penalty provisions of N.C.G.S. 153A-123.
- (B) Each takeoff or landing of a helicopter in violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense.
- (C) In addition to the penalties provided in this section, the county is expressly authorized to institute suit in any court of competent jurisdiction to enforce compliance herewith by injunctive process.

(Ord. passed 2-6-1995; Am. Ord. 1-3-2022; Am. Ord. passed 11-6-2023)

*Am. Ord. passed 11-6-2023*

**§ 113.100 EFFECTIVE DATE AND REVISION OF ORIGINAL ORDINANCE**

This revised ordinance revises and supplants the ordinance in Chapter 113 originally adopted February 6, 1995, and all subsequent amendments, and shall be effective on and after November 6, 2023.