



VALLEY VIEW

For immediate release:

Valley View Hospital and Classic Air Medical remind drone users to call first

August 31, 2018 - GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – With the recent growth in the drone industry amongst both recreational and commercial pilots, situations have arisen across the country where medical helicopters have been endangered or delayed due to drones. Valley View and Classic Air Medical are working to educate the community on the safe use of drones while not impeding the operations of the hospital.

Valley View's main priorities are to protect the safety, security, and privacy of its patients, guests and staff members. We ask that the safe, legal operation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAS) (also known as drones) be conducted in harmony with these priorities.

Recreational UAS pilots are required to adhere to regulations that include notifying an airport or heliport within five miles of their proposed area of operation. Valley View's heliport, operated by Classic Air Medical, falls into this category.

Valley View should be notified of a UAS flight within five miles of the hospital that are being conducted by hobbyist UAS pilots. UAS pilots are required to call Valley View security at 970.987.0540 to report where they are flying their drone and for how long. Commercial UAS pilots, while not required, are also encouraged to notify the hospital of operations within the five-mile area. Operators are asked to land their UAS safely if they hear the helicopter approaching until it has left the area.

If a Classic Air Medical helicopter pilot feels threatened, impeded, or delayed in their approach or takeoff from Valley View, they will alert Valley View Security who will then alert the local authorities as the UAS pilot's location and ask them to land their unit.

"Drones can severely impact our ability to transport patients, who are oftentimes in emergent situations," said Kraig Schlueter, Safety Officer and paramedic with Classic Air Medical. "We ask UAS pilots to please follow protocol by calling us so we can all share the airspace without interruption."

Valley View and Classic Air Medical thank the community for their efforts in sharing the airspace while also alleviating any undue burden that operating a UAS may have on hospital and emergency operations.

UAS pilots are asked to take the following steps prior to flying in the vicinity of Glenwood Springs:

- * Call Glenwood Springs Municipal Airport at 970.445.0965
- * Call Valley View Security at 970.987.0540