



Information on TFRs

It is important to note that air medical transport helicopters are sometimes afforded priority handling during a TFR but we are still subject to all aviation rules and regulations. The airspace is not owned by **FLIGHT FOR LIFE** or any other air medical program and there will be times when, based upon other considerations, that we may not be allowed to fly.

A Temporary Flight Restriction – TFR

There are different types of TFRs that can be issued for multiple reasons:

- A. **Special event TFRs** would be issued for events such as the Chicago Air and Water Show, Indy 500 and any large public events. Usually posted with long advance notice.
- B. **Special Notice TFRs** would be issued for situations that can be exacerbated by flight or pose a hazard to flight such as natural disasters, mass casualty or HazMat incidents. May have a very short notice.
- C. **National Security or VIP TFRs** involve dignitaries such as the Pope, leaders of other countries and the President or Vice President. These are posted with a short lead time.

The pilot's responsibility regarding a TFR:

- A. At the beginning of shift the pilot checks Notices to Airmen (NOTAMS) which would include any TFRs that may be in place or coming up. The NOTAMS will tell "Who, What, Where, When, Why, How" for the TFR.
- B. For a Special Event TFR the hours of the TFR for the event are given, what the event is, where it is located, how large it is, who the event coordinator is and a contact number. The event coordinator is responsible for coordinating entry into the airspace of the event. They can deny access into the airspace based upon the proceedings of the event even if it is an air medical helicopter. If the pilot violates the TFR, sanctions can be imposed upon the pilot.
- C. For situations that can pose a hazard to flight or flight into/thru can exacerbate the situation, entry into this airspace can also be denied due to the nature of the event and what is transpiring. Contact information is also provided for this type of TFR as well. The pilot must obtain clearance to fly into this airspace prior to lift-off.
- D. VIP TFRs follow the same process but there may be a secondary number provided in conjunction with the usual contact number. Presidential TFRs extend out 30 nautical miles with a closer inner circle of 10 nautical miles of the President or his movement. The inner circle is fully restricted except for the military and the Secret Service.

The process for calling to get flight clearance and coordination of flight into the VIP TFR:

- A. The pilot calls the designated number and provides the following:
 - a. Who the program is/personnel on board
 - b. What they are going to do
 - c. Where they are going-giving the exact flight path and timeline for the flight
 - d. Why they are requesting a clearance
- B. The pilot is given a specific means of identification and discreet communication is provided. This process allows the pilot to lift-off and proceed to their destination.
- C. If any leg of the transport takes longer than anticipated the pilot/dispatch must notify the TFR controlling agency.
- D. If the pilot violates the VIP TFR they will be diverted to a designated landing area where they will immediately land. Sanctions against the pilot can be imposed that can include seizure of the pilot's license.