

Key Milestones Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service



2004

- Mission 50 – Road crash rescue, Clackline, two patients flown simultaneously
- First baby born onboard
- Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera introduced, providing infrared imaging of incident scenes and landing locations

2006

- Mission 600 – Road crash rescue, Gidgegannup
- Introduction of the EZ-IO Intraosseous bone drill to provide emergency fluid replacement and drug administration

2008

- Mission 1250 – Marine search and rescue, vessel, Quinns Rocks
- Longest single mission (2210kms) – Land search and rescue, aircraft collision, Gascoyne Junction

2010

- Mission 2000 – Road crash rescue, Wickepin
- Introduction of the Hamilton T1 Ventilator providing a compact, transportable, fully featured ICU ventilator

2012

- Introduction of Zoll MD Monitors, a lightweight, airworthy monitor/defibrillator
- Advanced Paediatric Life Support crew training for emergencies involving infants and children

2014

- Mission 3500 – Marine search and rescue, vessel, Rottneest Island

2016

- Bunbury Rescue Helicopter commences
- Mission 5000 – Road crash rescue, Mundijong
- Introduction of packed red blood cells (O negative) for blood transfusions
- Israelite Bay rescue, complex 12.5 hour mission
- Bunbury Rescue Helicopter Base opens

2018

- Introduction of a backup rescue helicopter to support the fleet and mobilise to additional emergency incidents

2020

- Introduction of Emergency Action Cards with information on various aeromedical emergencies
- High-fidelity SIM training, providing crew with high-level realism and real-time response for medical scenarios

2022

- DFES procures next generation rescue helicopters – AW139s
- Two rescue helicopters deployed to the Bridgetown bushfires
- Multiple new drugs introduced, advancing patient treatment for cardiac, stroke, diabetic emergencies, sepsis and other trauma

2003

- DFES introduces WA's first Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service (ERHS)
- Mission 1 – Aircraft crash at Jandakot Airport
- RAC appointed as the exclusive naming rights sponsor

2005

- Mission 200 – Scaffolding fall, Bindoon
- Mission 400 – Marine search and rescue, vessel, Barragup

2007

- Jandakot Rescue Helicopter Base opens
- Mission 1000 – Inter-hospital patient transfer, Mandurah

2009

- Mission 1500 – Marine search and rescue, missing diver, Mandurah

2011

- Mission 2250 – Land search and rescue, hot air balloon crash, Northam
- Introduction of electronic patient care records, providing accurate and secure patient record keeping

2013

- Crew receive training in airway management with Royal Perth Hospital
- Mission 3000 – Inter-hospital patient transfer, Goomalling

2015

- Night Vision Goggles (NVG) introduced
- Introduction of augmented reality mapping system including Geographic Information System software, maritime shipping, FLIR camera and road, trail and waterway overlays
- FLIR camera upgraded to Star SAFIRE 380 HD, providing improved infrared imagery and video to assist operations

2017

- Introduction of portable ready-heat blankets for trauma, shock and hypothermia

2019

- Esperance bushfires deployment
- Introduction of Sonosite portable ultrasound machine to assess for internal injuries
- Child Rescue Capsule introduced for safe hoist retrieval of children

2021

- Deployments to assist with the Carnarvon floods and Tropical Cyclone Seroja
- Addition of Beach Emergency Number sign coordinates in the onboard mapping system
- Introduction of Portable MEQU blood and fluid warmer for emergency transfusions

2023

- Deployments to the Kimberley floods and Total Solar Eclipse (Exmouth)
- 20-year anniversary, 11 August

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