



10 March 2009

Laser attack on Ambulance Medical Rescue Helicopter

Last night on approach to Liverpool hospital the Ambulance Medical Rescue Helicopter crew were exposed to a laser light attack and were forced to alter their flight track to ensure a safe approach.

The Ambulance Medical Rescue Helicopter was transporting a motorcyclist who had fallen from his cycle at Tahmoor. He was treated by the Ambulance doctor and paramedic on board for a serious fracture to his leg and was being airlifted to the Liverpool Hospital Trauma Centre for urgent surgery.

This type of idiotic act has the potential for disaster and can not be underestimated, when we have irresponsible persons shining laser beams into the eyes of pilots.

The incident was immediately reported to the NSW and Federal Police and the crew returned safely to the Ambulance Helicopter Base at Bankstown Airport.

The Ambulance Service would warn anyone who carries out these acts of stupidity, that the State Government passed legislation in April last year making it possible for police to search anyone they believe may be carrying a laser pointer, and unless you have laser for a legitimate reason you can face fines of up to \$5,000.

The crackdown has happened as a result of a spate of laser attacks on commercial aeroplanes and emergency service helicopters.

Class three and four laser pointers are now classified as prohibited weapons, and if you're found with one of these, you could face up to 14 years in jail.