

July 1, 2009

In 2008 LifeNet of New York's Albany base, LifeNet 7-1 became the first of its bases in the state to fly at night using night vision goggles (NVG's). With our continued dedication to the safety of the public, our patients and of course ourselves this was our next step at continuing to enhance the safety of our service. Since the inception of NVG's we are proud to say that 7-2, 7-3 and 7-4 all operate with these as well.

These devices, worn by a minimum of the Pilot and 1 additional crew member, magnify outside light sources thousands of times over creating in essence, a lack of darkness. As the minimum lighting from cars, streetlights, reflections from the stars and moon, etc are viewed through the lenses they are dramatically enhanced giving the appearance of near day light. This is an enormous benefit to the crew during night flights allowing things as minute as the leaves on a tree to be identified from hundreds of feet in the air.

These additions do not alter or eliminate any of the safety guidelines that we as a program implemented prior to utilizing these. Our weather minimums continue to be strictly adhered to with the NVG simply being an addition to our already oriented safety climate.

Questions were raised by providers as to whether the use of goggles would alter the lighting once used to establish a landing zone and the answer is absolutely not. Our policy for landing zone size, terrain, slope and lighting are unchanged. One thing that may be different for the folks on the ground would be a decrease in the amount of light that the inbound aircraft is displaying. Because of the increased visual lighting that we gained from the NVG systems, we need not have as much exterior light shining from the spot light. With this it may be more difficult for you folks to spot the inbound aircraft from a distance.

We are very proud to have added this to our fleet and if you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Be safe and continue to do a great job out there!