

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Betsy Clayton, A.P.R.  
Lee County Government  
(239) 826-4606  
[bclayton@leegov.com](mailto:bclayton@leegov.com)

**Public welcome to view EMS helicopter Aug. 14**

Fort Myers, FL, Aug. 8, 2014 – Lee County Emergency Medical Services welcomes the public to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony to showcase its emergency helicopter. People can view the Eurocopter EC 135 at the LeeFlight hangar at the Page Field Airport on Thursday, Aug. 14, during a morning open house.

The new aircraft viewing is part of a one-year anniversary commemoration of Lee County's partnership with Air Methods, a private company based in Colorado that specializes in air medical transport and took over air service for Lee County patients in August 2013. This happened after the county decided to enter into a public-private partnership to continue delivering air ambulance service in Southwest Florida.

Air Methods provides the helicopter, pilots, mechanics and a flight nurse while Lee County provides the flight paramedic and medical direction. The helicopter has Lee County EMS logos on it and the words "LeeFlight" and "Lee County EMS."

The Aug. 14 event offers the public a chance to view closely the new helicopter. Lee County Commission Vice Chair Brian Hamman will welcome officials and Public Safety speakers for brief comments at 9 a.m. The public can continue to drop in until noon.

The event is at 2390 North Airport Road, Fort Myers, FL 33907. The public should park in the FDLE lot on Terminal Drive; the county will provide transportation from the parking lot to the hangar.

The County's two helicopters from its previous air-ambulance program have been sold. The 2002 Bell 430 was sold for \$1 million to a South Carolina leasing firm while the 1988 Eurocopter BO105 is pending sale for \$325,000.

For more information visit [www.safelee.org](http://www.safelee.org) or contact the Lee County Department of Public Safety at (239) 533-3911.

###

*Note to media: Images available upon request. Contact Betsy Clayton at Lee County government, [bclayton@leegov.com](mailto:bclayton@leegov.com).*