

Solano County Health & Social Services Department

Mental Health Services
Public Health Services
Substance Abuse Services
Older & Disabled Adult Services



Eligibility Services
Employment Services
Children's Services
Administrative Services

Patrick O. Duterte, Director

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

Steven P. Whiteley, MD
EMS Agency Medical Director

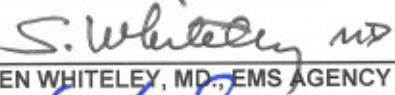
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POLICY MEMORANDUM 5300

Implementation Date: February 15, 2012
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REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:


STEVEN WHITELEY, MD., EMS AGENCY MEDICAL DIRECTOR


TED SELBY, EMS AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: ROLE OF EMS FIRST RESPONDER

AUTHORITY: CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE, DIVISION 2.5, 1797.90, 1797.94, 1797.182, 1797.183, 1797.176, 1797.204, 1797.220, California Government Code section 3100,

PURPOSE: To define the role of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) First Responders.

I. DUTIES OF EMS FIRST RESPONDERS

First Responders shall perform the following duties when responding to requests for emergency medical services.

A. Ascertain the nature of the problem. This should include a determination of:

1. Level of distress: life-threatening (emergent), urgent, extrication needed, other medical resources, need for EMS Aircraft, etc.
2. Evaluation of Airway, Breathing, and Circulation (ABC's), level of consciousness, vital signs, skin signs, etc.

B. Institute immediate first aid as indicated and other Basic Life Support (BLS) emergency care as appropriate (e.g., oxygen administration, CPR, defibrillation, cervical spine immobilization, etc.)

- C. EMS Agency personnel may act as first responders in certain circumstances and are designated as Disaster Services Workers, per California Government Code. In this role they may need to respond and perform functions based on their EMS knowledge, medical training, and licensing.
- EMS Agency personnel may use an emergency response vehicle. EMS Agency personnel using the emergency response vehicle for official business will complete an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC).

II. MEDICAL MANAGEMENT at the scene of a medical emergency should be handled in the following manner: Responsibility – Upon arrival of the first responder, one person, usually the most medically qualified (subject to departmental policy), assumes responsibility for care of the patient. Turnover of responsibility – The first responder continues responsibility for patient care until arrival of an Advanced Life Support (ALS) agency, at which time first responder provides a verbal or written report to ALS personnel. This report should include patient assessment, findings, and emergency care rendered prior to arrival of the ALS agency. This policy does not supersede Policy 6140 Responsibility for/Transfer of Patient Care.

- A. Acceptance of responsibility – ALS Fire Agency or ALS transport ambulance unit shall assume responsibility for patient care after receiving a verbal or written report from the first responder. If written reports of first responder care are not made available to transporting agency, it is the responsibility of the first responder agency to ensure medical records of the first responder care are made available to the hospital receiving the patient.
- B. The first responder unit should routinely remain on the scene until the transport ambulance unit arrives and transfer of patient care has been completed. If it is determined that medical service is not needed, ambulance response should be canceled according to “Cancellation of Ambulance Response,” Policy #5400. In the event another 911 request for public safety services occurs while a first responder unit is caring for a patient, the scene commander shall use discretion and allocate existing resources to effectively manage the patient and cope with the secondary request for public safety services.
- C. First responders should be returned to service and be available to respond to other emergency calls once the responsibility for patient care is transferred to other EMS personnel. First responders may remain on the scene and assist as necessary to facilitate optimal patient care.

- D. Transporting EMS personnel must follow the Solano County EMS Policy #6110 addressing assumption of patient care. Other EMS personnel should avoid needless removal of dressings or splints applied by first responders unless:
 - 1. The seriousness of degree of injury must be reevaluated.
 - 2. The procedures or methods are considered inappropriate or could further injure the patient.
- E. Five or more casualties – For incidents involving five or more casualties, first responders shall initiate triage as necessary (refer to Solano County Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) Response Plan, Policy #6180.

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