

	EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY	POLICY NUMBER	754
	A Division of the Merced County Department of Public Health	Effective Date	11/2025
<b>Authority:</b> Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, 1797.220		Initial Date:	07/2022
		Review Date:	07/2028

TRAUMATIC ARREST	
<p>Patients who go into cardiac arrest from severe traumatic injuries need immediate treatment and reversal of the cause of cardiac arrest, (e.g., tension pneumothorax, severe hemorrhage, hypoxia, etc.). All reversible conditions must be addressed immediately.</p> <p>If the transport time to an Emergency Department (ED) is less than 10 minutes, consider if the patient would benefit from rapid transport to ED.</p> <p>Do not transport patients in Traumatic Arrest via Air Ambulance.</p>	
ADULT	PEDIATRIC
BLS	
<p>Assess Vitals / Obtain SpO<sub>2</sub> / Oxygen - Titrate to SpO<sub>2</sub> of 94% or higher / Secure Airway - Assist Ventilations if needed.</p> <p>CPR - Begin chest compressions following <b>EMS Policy #702 - Cardiac Arrest</b>.</p> <p>Bleeding Control - Stop active bleeding with direct pressure, hemostatic dressings, or a tourniquet.</p> <p>Assess Need for Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR) - <b>Refer to EMS Policy #700 – General Procedures</b>.</p>	
ALS	
<p>Follow BLS procedures if applicable.</p> <p>Apply Cardiac Monitor - Defibrillation Pads (<b>Less than 2 minutes from patient contact</b>).</p> <p>Needle Thoracostomy - If patient suffers from blunt force trauma, perform bilateral needle decompression.</p> <p>Vascular Access - Obtain IO access if IV access is not noticeable after a quick look</p> <p>Medications - Refer to <b>EMS Policy #702 - Cardiac Arrest</b>, treat patient accordingly.</p>	
Determination of Death	
<p><b>Asystole or PEA less than 20 beats/minute</b> - After two (2) minutes of CPR, if there is no change in patient condition - Terminate CPR and cease efforts.</p> <p><b>Ventricular Fibrillation or PEA greater than 20 beats/minute</b> - Work patient up to 10 minutes looking for any reversible causes - If there is no change in patient condition - Terminate CPR and cease efforts.</p> <p><b>Patient achieves ROSC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide immediate transport to the closest emergency department.</li> <li>• If the patient loses ROSC prior to transport - Begin CPR for an additional 10 minutes.</li> <li>• If ROSC is not achieved after an additional 10 minutes - Terminate CPR and cease efforts.</li> </ul>	

Signatures on File

Approved By: Tim Williams  
EMS Administrator

Ajinder Singh, MD  
EMS Medical Director