

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY



**TITLE: RESCUE/AUTO EXTRICATION RESPONSE AND
REIMBURSEMENT TO THE UNPROTECTED AREA**

EMS Policy No. 3204

PURPOSE:

The purpose this policy is to describe the process for fire-rescue departments or districts in San Joaquin County to be included on a SJCEMSA maintained list of rescue/auto extrication resources, to be dispatched to the Unprotected Area in San Joaquin County pursuant to EMS Policy No. 3205 Responses to EMS Incidents in the Unprotected Area, and to be reimbursed for rescue/auto extrication services provided.

AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220 & 1798 et seq.

DEFINITIONS:

All definitions can be found in EMS Policy No. 1100, Policy Definitions.

POLICY:

To provide procedures for the identification of fire rescue departments or districts in San Joaquin County that authorize SJCEMSA to request that they provide Rescue-Auto Extrication services to the Unprotected Area in San Joaquin County, the dispatch of such resources, and reimbursement for such services from funds specifically allocated by the Board of Supervisors.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Fire-rescue departments or districts in San Joaquin County that want to provide auto-responses to the Unprotected Area pursuant to EMS Policy No. 3205, Responses to EMS Incidents in the Unprotected Area shall submit a completed Unprotected Area Response Authorization form (Exhibit 3204A) to SJCEMSA prior to authorization signed by the department or district Fire Chief or Chair of the Board.
- II. Fire-rescue departments and district's submission of the Unprotected Area Response Authorization form (Exhibit 3204A) and responding to a dispatch request for EMS auto responses to the Unprotected Area is voluntary.
- III. SJCEMSA will maintain an up-to-date list of fire-rescue departments or districts that have submitted the required Unprotected Area Response Authorization form (Exhibit 3204A) and provide it to the San Joaquin County authorized emergency ambulance dispatch center.

Effective: July 1, 2025

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Supersedes: January 3, 2023

Katherine Shuler, MD

Approved:

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Medical Director



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EMS Administrator

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- IV. Fire-rescue departments or districts on the SJCEMSA list shall ensure that they have the appropriate resources, equipment, and staffing to respond to the types of fire-rescue/auto extrication incidents identified in the MPDS Protocol 29 Traffic / Transportation Incidents with a Level of Delta (29D - determinants 1-5, all suffixes) and MPDS Protocol 22 Inaccessible Incident / Other Entrapment with a Level of Delta (22D determinants 1-6, all suffixes).
- V. For each incident that a fire-rescue department or district on the SJCEMSA list is dispatched to pursuant to EMS Policy No. 3205, Responses to EMS Incidents in the Unprotected Area, they are eligible for reimbursement by SJCEMSA.
 - A. Reimbursement by SJCEMSA shall be based Exhibit 3204B.
 - B. All hourly rates for reimbursement will be calculated from time of initial dispatch and rounded up to the next full hour after the call was cleared.
 - C. To request reimbursement for services provided pursuant to this Policy, the fire-rescue department or district shall submit a completed Rescue/Auto Extrication Invoice Form (Exhibit 3204C) no later than thirty (30) days after the date of service.
 - 1. SJCESMA shall review and approve or deny each Rescue/Auto Extrication Invoice Form requests no later than fifteen days after receipt.
 - 2. SJCEMSA may request additional supporting documentation as needed prior to any approval or denial. Any such request may extend the time for SJCEMSA's final determination on the Form.
- VI. Fire-rescue departments or districts shall not be eligible for reimbursement for self-dispatched assignments.

Effective: July 1, 2025

Supersedes: January 3, 2023

Approved: *Katherine Shafner, MD*

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Medical Director

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EMS Administrator