



Health & Social Services Department

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

POLICY MEMORANDUM #5400

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/01/92

APPROVED BY:


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**SUBJECT: EMS FIRST RESPONDER CANCELLATION OF AMBULANCE
UNITS**

AUTHORITY: CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE, DIVISION 2.5, 1797.90, 1797.94,
1797.182, 1797.183, 1797.176, 1797.204, 1797.220

PURPOSE/POLICY: To define the appropriate procedure to cancel or change the response of an ambulance unit.

I. CANCELLATION BY FIRST RESPONDERS

A first responder unit on the scene of an incident may cancel a responding ambulance unit upon determination that there are no injuries or illnesses that require ambulance transport or the patient(s) on scene refuse EMS services.

II. REDUCTION OF CODE BY FIRST RESPONDERS

A first responder unit on the scene of a medical incident may reduce a responding ambulance from CODE 3 to CODE 2 upon determination that, in the best judgment of the first responder, the illness or injury is not immediately life threatening or that the difference in CODE 3 and CODE 2 response time would not impact patient outcome.

III. CANCELLATION OF FIRE FIRST RESPONDERS

Ambulance and/or law enforcement personnel arriving on the scene of a medical emergency prior to the fire first responders should cancel the fire first responder only if assistance is not needed and environmental hazards are nonexistent at the emergency scene.

- A. If EMT ambulance personnel are already on-scene and performing emergency care, first responder personnel shall offer assistance as needed.

IV. CANCELLATION OF A RESPONDING UNIT is to be based on sound medical judgment and common sense.
