



# Scene Management and Authority

PURPOSE

- I. To define roles and responsibilities regarding scene management and authority at the scene of a medical emergency.

POLICY

## I. AT THE SCENE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

- A. Authority for patient health care management shall be vested in the pre-hospital response personnel holding the highest level of medical certification or license.
  - 1. If multiple advanced life support (ALS) personnel are on scene, the first arriving ALS provider will coordinate the medical response as the patient team leader.
    - a. In Napa City limits, the City of Napa Fire Department is recognized as the primary ALS emergency first responder.
      - i. The transfer of patient care between providers on scene shall not occur more than once.
    - b. All providers, regardless of certification/licensure level or organizational affiliation are encouraged to participate in the coordination of patient care.
      - i. In the event of disagreements between providers about the appropriate patient treatment plan, personnel are encouraged to discuss treatment and consult with the Base Hospital Physician.
  - 2. The patient team leader, consistent with EMS policy, should release associated responders (first responders, ambulances, or helicopters) from the incident if their assistance will not be required.
- B. Notwithstanding the above, authority for the management of the scene shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency having primary investigative authority.
- C. The scene of an emergency shall be managed in a manner designed to minimize the risk of death or health impairment to the patient and to other persons who may be exposed to the risks as a result of the emergency condition and priority shall be placed upon the interests of those persons exposed to the more serious and immediate risks to life and health. Public safety officials shall consult emergency medical services personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in the determination of relevant risks.
- D. Medical management at the scene of a medical emergency includes:
  - 1. Medical evaluation.
  - 2. Medical aspects of extrication and all movement of the patient(s).
  - 3. Medical care.
  - 4. Patient destination.
  - 5. Transport code.

- E. Responsibility for emergency medical management is based on the following order as personnel arrive on the scene:
  - 1. First responder (Public Safety First Aid).
  - 2. First responder Basic Life Support (BLS).
  - 3. Transport unit BLS.
  - 4. First responder Advanced Life Support (ALS).
  - 5. Transport unit ALS.
- F. Whenever a pre-hospital care provider transfers patient care responsibility to another pre-hospital care provider, he/she is responsible for noting that such action took place on their electronic patient care record (ePCR). The responsible pre-hospital care provider is required to document patient findings and treatments according to Napa County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) policy.
- G. All providers, regardless of certification or licensure level, may only perform those skills that are in their scope of practice.

## **II. EMS RESPONSE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS**

- A. EMS personnel should remain in the cold zone and ensure that patient has been decontaminated prior to transport.
- B. EMS personnel should notify the receiving facility as early as possible and consult with the base hospital regarding treatment for specific types of exposure.

## **III. CRIME SCENE MANAGEMENT**

- A. EMS personnel need to remain aware of potential evidence and take appropriate steps to limit disruption of potential evidence (e.g., weapons, bloodstains, skid marks, etc.).

## **IV. ON-VIEWING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

- A. When EMS personnel come upon the scene of a medical emergency without being dispatched to that emergency, the crew of that unit shall immediately notify the EMS dispatch of the location and nature of that emergency.
  - 1. If no prehospital care responders are on scene and the on-viewing unit is not enroute to another medical emergency or not transporting a patient, the crew of that unit shall stop and render aid until a 9-1-1 ambulance has arrived and taken over patient care.
  - 2. When enroute to another medical emergency or transporting a patient, notify dispatch and continue current assignment unless redirected by dispatch.