





**SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES**

EMS POLICY	511
Effective:	April 2025
Approval: EMS Director Travis Kusman, MPH	Signed: 
Approval: EMS Medical Director Greg Gilbert, MD	Signed: 

SPECIAL RESPONSE AREAS

I. PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines for EMS responses within and outside of San Mateo County, which require special notifications.

II. AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, §1797.220, 1798; California Code of Regulation, Title 22, Division 9, §100096.03

III. SPECIAL RESPONSE AREA

- A. SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory – all areas of the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory are treated as San Mateo County’s emergency response area, including fire and ambulance response.
- B. San Francisco International Airport (“SFO”) – all areas of SFO are treated as San Mateo County’s emergency response area. Fire first response (fire suppression and medical) is handled by City of San Francisco Fire Department located on SFO property. Ambulance response is provided by the County’s contracted emergency ambulance provider.

IV. EMERGENCY RESPONSES TO THE SAN MATEO AND DUMBARTON BRIDGES

Emergency responses on bridges are a frequent challenge for first responders and EMS personnel. As such, the following procedures have been established to provide a safe, effective, and planned response to incidents on bridges for all responders, to reduce traffic congestion and, thereby, the possibility of traffic collisions, and to reduce unnecessary and costly responses by public safety agencies.

The response of personnel and emergency equipment to freeway incidents on bridges shall be commensurate with the type and magnitude of the incident and shall be guided by the procedures outlined below.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. Freeway incidents on bridges
 - 1. Public safety agencies will respond to freeway incidents on bridges only when specifically requested. Response to freeway incidents on bridges requires special handling due to roadway design.

2. San Mateo Bridge (SR-92)
 - a. Resources from Alameda County fire agencies and San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department (or other fire agency within San Mateo County) will respond directly to the scene. All additional responding agencies will report to the pre-designated staging area, unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.
 - b. Dumbarton Bridge (SR-84)

Resources from Alameda County fire agencies and Menlo Park Fire Protection District (or other fire agency within San Mateo County) will respond directly to the scene. All additional responding agencies will report to the pre-designated staging area, unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander.
 - c. Emergencies that require the use of other rapid response resources may be requested through Public Safety Communications (“PSC”).
 3. The first public safety agency arriving at the scene of an emergency incident shall establish incident command.
 4. Public safety personnel shall keep their respective dispatch centers informed as needed.
 5. All emergency response agencies shall adhere to any cancellation request made by the Incident Commander or PSC.
 6. Upon completion of their duties, emergency response personnel and equipment should leave the scene as expeditiously as possible.
- B. San Francisco International Airport
1. Emergency personnel requested to SFO shall respond to designated check point(s). Check point information will be provided upon dispatch.
 2. All emergency personnel entering the secured areas (e.g., sterile areas of terminals, tarmac, etc.) shall wait for and proceed with an authorized escort.