



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS POLICY

514

Effective:

April 2025

Approval: EMS Director
Travis Kusman, MPH

Signed: 

Approval: EMS Medical Director
Greg Gilbert, MD

Signed: 

PATIENT EXTRICATION IN LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

I. PURPOSE

This policy defines the approved use of off-road vehicles used for patient extraction in limited access areas.

II. AUTHORITY

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

III. DEFINITION

Advanced Life Support (“ALS”) Emergency Medical Responder Agency: An Emergency Medical Responder Agency authorized by LEMSA which provides paramedic personnel with ALS equipment to respond to medical emergencies with the capabilities to provide immediate ALS medical care prior to arrival of an ambulance.

Emergency Medical Services Agency (“LEMSA”) [or “Agency”]: The San Mateo County EMS Agency is designated as the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) and is statutorily charged with primary responsibility for administration and medical control of emergency medical services in San Mateo County.

Off-road vehicle (“ORV”): An alternative vehicle that is not an authorized ambulance used to extract a patient from a limited access area to an area accessible by an ambulance or air ambulance. These vehicles are not intended to be used for nor are authorized to transport patients to a hospital.

IV. POLICY

A. Authorized advanced life support (“ALS”) emergency medical responder agencies may use ORVs to extract patients in limited access areas where an ambulance or air ambulance is not able to safely reach the patient.

1. Patient movement shall be limited to extraction to an area that is safely reachable by an ambulance or air ambulance.

B. ORVs shall be equipped with an authorized gurney or stokes litter basket that secures to the ORV in a fashion that is authorized by the manufacturer(s). Unsecured gurneys or stokes litter baskets shall not be used for patient extrication.

- C. ORVs shall only be used for patient extrication by appropriately trained staff in a manner that is safe for both personnel and patient.