





**SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH  
EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL SERVICES**

<b>EMS POLICY</b>	<b>517</b>
Effective:	<b>April 2023</b>
Approval: EMS Director <b>Travis Kusman, MPH</b>	Signed: 
Approval: EMS Medical Director <b>Greg Gilbert, MD</b>	Signed: 

## **TACTICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPORT TEAM**

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### **I. PURPOSE**

This policy establishes requirements for tactical emergency medical support (“TEMS”) teams when requested by local law enforcement agencies.

### **II. AUTHORITY**

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, §1797-1797.207; California Code of Regulation, Title 22, Division 9, §100128 and 100170

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

Special Weapons and Tactics (“SWAT”): A law enforcement team which uses specialized equipment and tactics in high-risk situations.



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.

### **IV. POLICY**

- A. The San Mateo County Tactical Emergency Medical Support (“TEMS”) team is comprised of members from both JPA fire agencies and the County’s contracted ambulance provider. The team is designed to provide embedded, tactical medical support for San Mateo County SWAT team members and other allied law enforcement agencies.
- B. The TEMS team can be requested by a law enforcement commander of a tactical team and will only respond upon request from law enforcement or other allied law agencies (e.g., Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service). Authorization to participate in allied agency operations resides with fire chiefs, police chiefs, and ambulance contractor management.
- C. The TEMS team is comprised of San Mateo County accredited paramedics and EMTs who shall operate under LEMSA medical control, including adherence to its policies, procedures and protocols.
- D. TEMS team members shall follow the California Tactical Casualty Care Training Guidelines



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(2017) ([click here](#)).

- E. If the operation takes place outside of San Mateo County, the TEMS team shall operate exclusively under LEMSA policies, procedures and protocols and complete patient care records for all patients treated. If an incident occurs, the electronic health record(s) shall be completed in accordance with LEMSA policy, sent to the hospital with the patient, a copy sent to the EMS Agency having jurisdiction of the event, and a copy to the LEMSA.
- F. In the event of an injury to a SWAT/ law enforcement operator, the TEMS team will initiate treatment and request ambulance transport if not already available at the scene. The TEMS team will maintain care of the operator in collaboration with the ambulance transport paramedic through the time of turnover to medical personnel at the receiving hospital.
- G. In the event of an injury to a civilian, the TEMS team shall initiate care and activate the 9-1-1 system for an EMS system response. When first responders arrive, care will be transferred to the 9-1-1 system provider(s) for treatment and transport.