San Mateo County Emergency Medical Services

Obvious Death

Yes

PSC dispatcher determines person meets EMD criteria for obvious or expected death

No

Normal EMS response

Yes

Dispatcher will dispatch fire first response Code 2 and cancel the ambulance response

No

Paramedic, EMT, designated first responder, or public safety officer finds injuries incompatible with life, i.e. the following conditions:
- Decapitation
- Incineration
- Rigor Mortis
- Decomposition
- Apnea with destruction and/or separation of the body from the heart, brain, liver, or lungs
- Multi-casualty incidents (MCIs) where triage principles preclude the initiation or continuation of resuscitation
- Submersion of one hour or longer confirmed by public safety personnel will be considered a body recovery, not a rescue operation
- An expected death due to a terminal illness

or

If no bystander CPR and unwitnessed arrest; and Asystole

Yes

Do Not Begin Resuscitation Follow Operations 10

No

Reinitiate ambulance response if appropriate

Exit to appropriate TP

Effective November 2018

Effective March 2019