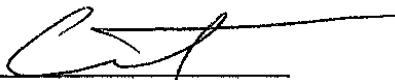





**USE OF BLS AMBULANCES WITHIN THE  
JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO  
FIRE DEPARTMENT (SSFFD)**

APPROVED:   
EMS Medical Director   
Interim EMS Administrator

1. An ALS ambulance will be dispatched to all 9-1-1 requests for ambulance response unless:
  - 1.1 Law enforcement requests a BLS ambulance transport of a patient to be placed on a 5150 hold.
  - 1.2 In the event that no SSFFD ALS ambulance is available, a SSFFD BLS ambulance, if available, will be dispatched to the call and the SSFFD Battalion Chief will be notified and the patient will be evaluated as in item 2.2.2 below. f
  - 1.3 If no SSFFD ALS or BLS ambulance is available, a San Mateo County 911-ALS ambulance will be dispatched
2. Turnover of 911 calls to a SSFFD BLS ambulance
  - 2.1. An ALS ambulance will be dispatched to all 9-1-1 requests for ambulance response. In no case (other than 1.1. and 1.2 above) will a BLS ambulance be initially dispatched.
  - 2.2. Upon arrival the SSFFD ALS first response vehicle or ambulance, the paramedic(s) will assess the patient(s). If in the SSFFD paramedic's best medical judgment there is no potential for the patient to require ALS level care and there is no risk that the patient will suffer harm by being transferred by a BLS ambulance, the SSFFD BLS ambulance may be dispatched to transport the patient. After the determination by the SSFFD paramedic that the patient may be safely transported by a BLS ambulance:
    - 2.3.1 the SSFFD engine company EMT on scene may assume care of the patient until the arrival of the BLS ambulance.
    - 2.3.2 The SSFFD paramedic shall provide the engine company EMT, or if present, the transporting BLS ambulance EMT-Is, with a comprehensive verbal report on the patient's condition. These paramedics shall provide a copy of their completed patient care record (PCR) to the on-scene engine

Issue Date: Jun 2005  
Effective Date: Jun 2005  
Reviewed On: Oct 2013  
Next Review: Oct 2017

- company EMT, or if present, the transporting BLS ambulance EMT-Is.
- 2.3.3 If there is any question as to whether the patient is stable for BLS transport, the SSFFD ALS ambulance shall transport the patient.
- 2.4 Documentation
  - 2.4.1 SSFFD Paramedics
    - 2.4.1.1. The SSFFD paramedic shall complete a PCR for each patient to be transported by the BLS ambulance prior to transfer of care to the SSFFD engine company or, if present, BLS ambulance.
    - 2.4.1.2. The PCR shall clearly state that the patient may be safely transported by BLS ambulance and medical information recorded on the PCR must substantiate this decision.
    - 2.4.1.3. The PCR shall specify the time that the patient was turned over to the SSFFD engine company or, if present, BLS ambulance.
    - 2.4.1.4. A copy of the paramedic's completed PCR must accompany the patient to the receiving hospital.
  - 2.4.2 SSFFD EMTs
    - 2.4.2.1 The SSFFD EMT shall complete a PCR for each patient transported. A copy of this PCR shall be left with the patient at the receiving hospital.
- 2.5 SSFFD BLS Ambulance Communications
  - 2.5.1 Each BLS ambulance utilized to respond to calls within the SSFFD response zone shall be equipped with radios capable of communicating over the County EMS Channels.
  - 2.5.2 Radio call signs used by these BLS ambulances must be pre-approved by the EMS Agency.
  - 2.5.3 En route to the receiving hospital, the BLS ambulance will contact that hospital via the appropriate radio frequency and provide a brief patient report which includes a statement that this patient is a 9-1-1 patient.
  - 2.5.4 Upon hospital arrival, the EMT-Is will give a verbal report which specifies that the patient is a 9-1-1 patient.
- 2.6 Quality Improvement By Fire Department – The SSFFD's EMS Coordinator shall:
  - 2.6.1 Provide guidance and training to the SSFFD paramedics in assessing patients for appropriate BLS ambulance transport.
  - 2.6.2 Provide guidance and any training specified by the EMS Agency to the BLS ambulance EMT-Is.
  - 2.6.3 Review each case in which a patient is turned over to the SSFFD engine company and/or BLS ambulance.
  - 2.6.4 Immediately notify the EMS Agency upon discovery of

Issue Date: Jun 2005  
Effective Date: Jun 2005  
Reviewed On: Oct 2013  
Next Review: Oct 2017

improper actions on the part of paramedic or EMT-I personnel, whether employed by SSFFD or the BLS ambulance provider.

2.7 BLS Ambulance EMT-I Personnel

2.7.1 SSFFD shall ensure that BLS ambulance crews utilized to respond to calls within the SSFFD response zone consists of two currently certified EMTs.

Issue Date: Jun 2005  
Effective Date: Jun 2005  
Reviewed On: Oct 2013  
Next Review: Oct 2017