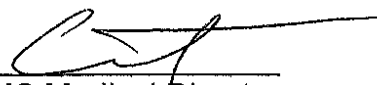





USE OF BLS AMBULANCES WITHIN THE EMERGENCY AMBULANCE/ ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM

APPROVED:  
EMS Medical Director Interim EMS Administrator

1. An ALS ambulance will be dispatched to all 9-1-1 requests for ambulance response. A 9-1-1 call may only be turned over to a BLS ambulance for transport when the following occurs:
 - 1.1. In the event that no ALS ambulance is available, a BLS ambulance will be dispatched to the call and a field supervisor will be notified.
 - 1.2. If the patient needs transport and the BLS ambulance is onscene, the first responder paramedic shall take the ALS equipment from the first responder apparatus and attend the patient in the BLS ambulance enroute to the hospital.
 - 1.3. For declared Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI), the BLS ambulance can be used to transport a patient(s).
2. South San Francisco Fire Department (SSFFD)
SSFFD may utilize BLS ambulances in certain circumstances and shall adhere to the following procedure:
 - 2.1. An ALS ambulance will be dispatched to all 9-1-1 requests for ambulance response. In no case (other than 1.1. above) will a BLS ambulance be initially dispatched. The SSFFD ALS ambulance will be dispatched if it is available.
 - 2.2. If the SSFFD ALS ambulance is not available, the SSFFD dispatcher will turn the call over to PSC in such a manner that the dispatcher will remain on the telephone line. If the system is at Level 4 or above, PSC shall dispatch a paramedic ambulance and that ambulance will handle the call.
 - 2.3. Upon arrival the SSFFD ALS ambulance EMT-Ps will assess the patient(s). If in these EMT-P'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, a BLS ambulance may be dispatched to transport the patient. After the determination by the SSFFD ALS ambulance EMT-Ps that the patient may

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be safely transported by a BLS ambulance:

- 2.3.1 The SSFFD engine company on scene may assume care of the patient until the arrival of the BLS ambulance.
- 2.3.2 The SSFFD ALS ambulance EMT-Ps shall provide the engine company, or if present, the transporting BLS ambulance EMT-Is, with a comprehensive verbal report on the patient's condition. These EMT-Ps shall provide a copy of their completed patient care record (PCR) to the onscene engine company, 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.

2.4 Documentation

2.4.1 SSFFD Paramedics

- 2.4.1.1. The SSFFD ALS ambulance paramedics shall complete a PCR for each patient to be transported by the BLS ambulance provider prior to transfer of care to the SSFFD engine company or, if present, BLS provider.
- 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 EMT-Is.
- 2.4.1.4. A copy of the EMT-P's completed PCR must accompany the patient to the receiving hospital.

2.4.2 BLS Ambulance Contractor

- 2.4.2.1 SSFFD shall provide their BLS ambulance provider with County approved PCR forms.
- 2.4.2.2 SSFFD shall provide their BLS ambulance provider with a current copy of the EMS Agency Policy and Procedure Manual and with any modifications to such manual.
- 2.4.2.3 The BLS ambulance provider is expected to follow all applicable policies and procedures promulgated by the EMS Agency.
- 2.4.2.4 The BLS ambulance EMT-Is shall complete a PCR for each patient they transport. (This shall be separate from the SSFFD ALS ambulance EMT-P's PCR.) SSFFD shall be responsible for ensuring that these EMT-Is are appropriately trained in completing the PCR.
- 2.4.2.5 The PCR shall specifically list the time that the EMT-Is received the patient from the SSFFD ALS ambulance EMT-Ps or SSFFD engine company.
- 2.4.2.6 The PCR shall clearly state that the patient was a "9-1-1

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- patient".
- 2.5 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 (currently blue channel) 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 provider's EMT-Is.
 - 2.6.3 Review each case in which a patient is turned over to the SSFFD engine company and/or BLS ambulance provider.
 - 2.6.4 Immediately notify the EMS Agency upon discovery of improper actions on the part of EMT-P 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:
 - 2.7.2.1 Consist of two (2) EMT-Is that are currently certified in the State of California and currently on file with the EMS Agency as EMT-I employees of the SSFFD BLS Ambulance Provider.
 - 2.7.2.2 Complete an EMS system orientation approved by the EMS Agency and conducted by SSFFD.
 - 2.7.2.3 Complete any other additional continuing education required by the EMS Agency.

 - 2.8 EMS Agency Inspection and Ride-along
 - 2.8.1 EMS Agency staff may inspect BLS ambulances utilized to respond to calls within the SSFFD response zone without any pre-notification. Any ambulance not meeting Policy Equipment - 1 specifications shall not be permitted to respond to 9-1-1 calls.
 - 2.8.2 EMS Agency staff may ride along with BLS ambulances utilized to respond to calls within the SSFFD response zone at any time.

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