



POLICY NO:	OPS 27
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LAW ENFORCEMENT ON-SCENE REQUESTING AN EMS RESPONSE

Purpose: The following are EMS guidelines for San Mateo County law enforcement officers.

- 1) The law enforcement officer will provide all the following information to his/her dispatch center as part of Public Safety Communications SEND protocol:
 - a) Code of response needed (Code 3 or Code 2)
 - b) The chief complaint or incident type.
 - c) Approximate age of the patient(s).
 - d) Whether the patient is conscious.
 - e) Whether the patient is breathing.
 - f) Whether there is chest pain.
 - g) Whether there is severe bleeding (spurting).

If this information is not provided the Public Safety Communications [PSC] emergency medical dispatcher [EMD] will dispatch a Code 3 response. The above criteria come from the National Academy of Emergency Dispatch.

- 2) A Code 3 response should always be requested in the following situations:
 - a) Any indication of an emergency medical condition (e.g., not breathing, breathing problems, chest pain, severe bleeding, head injury, abdominal pain, or other serious injuries).
 - b) Person confused, disoriented, unconscious, not alert
 - c) Suspected intoxication and unable to walk independently
 - d) Complaint of fainting or seizure
 - e) Childbirth
 - f) Motor vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle crash incidents with:
 - i) Vehicle versus pedestrian (any speed)
 - ii) Suspected injuries
 - iii) Significant damage to passenger compartment or airbag deployment
 - iv) Patient complains of pain or injury
 - v) Motorcycle or bicycle crash with:
 - vi) Reported/suspected speed of more than 20 mph

APPROVED:

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- 3) System Note: Law enforcement officers contact PSC dispatch via the officer's specific PSAP and then relay their requests to PSC. The officer does not speak directly to the PSC dispatcher. In these situations PSC uses the SEND protocol instead of the EMD process, which is used in medical 9-1-1 calls. The SEND protocol does use the medical EMD questions which can be found in this policy. Because EMD questions are not answered directly by the officer, PSC does not have the ability to modify the officer's request for medical aid.
- 4) Law Enforcement personnel will not direct patient destination. The transporting Paramedic will follow existing EMS patient destination policies.