San Mateo County Emergency Medical Services

Pediatric Obvious Death

1. Dispatcher will dispatch fire first response Code 2 and cancel the ambulance response if yes.

2. PSC dispatcher determines person meets EMD criteria for obvious or expected death.
   - Yes: Normal EMS response.
   - No: Reinitiate ambulance response if appropriate.

3. 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

   - No: Exit to appropriate protocol.