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OPERATIONS MANUAL
STANDARD INSTRUCTION 09

SECTION 16 MEDICAL SCENE AUTHORITY

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I. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines for scene management, medical management, and the supervision of personnel of a call for medical service within the city of San Diego.

II. SCOPE

This policy will apply to all sworn San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) and Emergency Ambulance Provider personnel.

III. AUTHORITY

The fire chief authorizes the information within this policy.

IV. POLICY

A. All personnel who possess the proper training, certification, license, and authority will provide medical care within their scope of practice until relieved by a higher medical authority.

B. Command and control of all medical incidents within the City of San Diego will be under the direct authority of the ranking officer or incident commander on scene from San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD).

C. General Paramedic and EMT Responsibilities

1. Provide the best possible customer service to the patient, bystanders, family, and medical professionals
2. Responsible for the knowledge and application of all County and City of San Diego EMS policies, protocols and procedures
3. Maintain all licenses, certifications, and authorizations as required by SDFD, and all local, state and federal regulatory agencies
4. Attend all mandatory SDFD continuing education classes
5. Maintain readiness and inventory of medications and equipment
6. Report any discrepancies, deficiencies, or out of service issues to the immediate fire officer and/or Emergency Ambulance Provider supervisor
7. Logon to all required equipment and programs at the beginning and as needed throughout the shift
8. Complete all patient records and documentation in a timely manner in accordance with County of San Diego EMS and SDFD requirements
9. Bring, or confirm, required equipment needed on scene

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D. Scene Management Guidelines

1. The first arriving unit may reduce the code or cancel other responding units, in accordance with San Diego County policy and SDFD policies.
2. At no time will a transport unit cancel a SDFD first responder when responding to an incident involving a motorized vehicle accident.
3. The first fire officer to arrive on scene at a multiple unit response (two or more units) will assume the role of incident commander.
 - a. The incident commander is responsible for:
 - 1) Coordination of personnel and assignment to ICS roles
 - 2) Control of the scene to include placement, ingress and egress of apparatus
 - 3) Begin and transfer the electronic patient care report (ePCR)

E. Medical Control

1. Medical control of the patient(s) is assigned to the fire paramedic of record and transport paramedic on scene of the incident.
 - a. This is a shared responsibility between both paramedics who will work together to determine appropriate patient care, patient movement, transport destination, and code of transport.
 - b. If conflicts arise between the any patient care providers, the care that is the most conservative will prevail.
 - c. All crewmembers on scene will be responsible for unresolved inappropriate patient care in their presence, based on the level of their training.
2. When the fire officer/incident commander is also the paramedic of record, the fire officer will determine the need to pass command and assist directly with patient care or continue with incident management while directing the other crewmembers to assist with patient care.
 - a. When the fire officer is the paramedic of record, decisions made regarding medical control are shared with the transport paramedic.
 - 1) When the fire officer is the paramedic of record and the incident commander, they have the authority to direct medical control should the fire officer and the transport paramedic disagree with a medical issue after base hospital contact.
 - 2) The fire officer/incident commander will not make patient care decisions that are not within their scope of medical training.

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3. When a patient is transported 'code 10', both the fire paramedic and the transport paramedic will provide patient care while en-route to the hospital.
 - a. Upon mutual agreement between paramedics, the following exceptions may apply:
 - 1) Stable trauma
 - 2) Stable CVA
 - 3) Multi-casualty incident
 4. When the transport paramedic requests a second paramedic in the patient compartment during transport, the request will be honored by the incident commander taking scene dynamics into consideration.
 5. When medical control issues conflict with incident control, the paramedic(s) charged with medical control will brief the incident commander as to the medical necessity for the patient.
 - a. The incident commander will decide, based upon scene dynamics and input from the paramedics, the disposition of patient care, treatment, extrication, and transport.
 - b. In the event the incident commander's decisions differ from the paramedic's, the fire unit's supervisor and Emergency Ambulance Provider supervisor will be notified through Emergency Command and Dispatch Center (ECDC).
 - 1) In this situation, transport should not be delayed.
- F. Supervision
6. As the incident commander, the fire officer has the authority to address personnel issues to achieve the best outcome for the patient(s) and family on scene.
 7. Inappropriate family or patient interactions will be addressed immediately by the fire officer.
 8. Follow up on personnel issues will be addressed after the call is complete by the respective agency supervisor, whenever possible
 - a. Issues identified with Emergency Ambulance Provider personnel that remain unresolved or that rise above a discussion with the crewmember will be referred to the Emergency Ambulance Provider supervisor.
 9. When the fire officer believes the transport paramedic should not continue with a call the fire officer will:
 - a. Take appropriate action based on circumstances, ensuring patient care is not delayed.

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- b. Request an immediate response from the appropriate Emergency Ambulance Provider supervisor and second level fire department supervisor.
The incident will be reported by the fire officer to SDFD_QAQI@sandiego.gov.