

TITLE O P E R A T I O N S M A N U A L	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 09		DEPARTMENT F I R E - R E S C U E
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES P R O N O U N C E M E N T O F D E A T H	SECTION 19	PAGE 1 of 2	EFFECTIVE DATE TBD

I. PURPOSE

To provide direction regarding the pronouncement of death in the pre-hospital environment.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all sworn San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) and Falck San Diego personnel.

III. AUTHORITY

The fire chief authorizes the information within this policy.

IV. POLICY

A. Dead on Scene

1. Any patient determined to be obviously dead, per County of San Diego EMS policy, requires an electronic patient care report (ePCR).
2. It will be the responsibility of the fire first responder crew to complete required documentation for patients determined to be dead on scene and no patient care has been provided.
3. Falck San Diego is responsible for documenting all patients who are pronounced dead on scene who have received patient care prior to the pronouncement.
4. In the event a fire first responder unit is not assigned to the incident the transport unit is responsible for required documentation.
5. Every effort should be made to ensure that patient information is complete, including:
 - a. Patient's name (exactly as it appears on Medicare/insurance card)
 - b. Patient's DOB
 - c. Patient's address
 - d. Patient's phone number
 - e. Patient's social security number
 - f. Insurance name and policy number
6. Under no circumstances will personnel demand patient information from a grieving family member. If the circumstances permit, the paramedic should ask for patient information as tactfully as possible.
7. Law enforcement will be requested upon patient pronouncement.
8. If crime scene suspected, care should be taken not to disturb evidence.

B. Pronouncement of Death at a Licensed Care Facility (for example, skilled nursing facility, assisted living, board and care, etc.)

TITLE OPERATIONS MANUAL	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 09		DEPARTMENT FIRE-RESCUE
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PRONOUNCEMENT OF DEATH	SECTION 19	PAGE 2 of 2	EFFECTIVE DATE TBD

1. Patients pronounced at a licensed care facility, or enrolled in hospice care, may be left on scene without requesting law enforcement.
 2. Law enforcement will be requested for circumstances other than presumed natural death.
- C. Body Removal at San Diego International Airport
1. Dead bodies on airport property or aircraft will be moved only at the direction of Harbor Police Department.