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S.O.P. #: 600-17

SUBJECT: PARAMEDIC ENGINE/OTHER ALS NON-TRANSPORT UNITS

DIVISION: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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Objective: To facilitate adequate utilization of resources during times when Engine Companies are staffed with certified and functioning ALS providers.

Section 1: Qualifications

- A. Advanced Life Support, as part of a Paramedic Engine Company, can be provided by members of the Department who are certified and functioning ALS providers in Baltimore County.

Section II. Paramedic Engine Designation Criteria

- A. The OIC assigned to an Engine Company will designate the unit "Paramedic Engine XX" if the unit has a certified and functioning ALS provider on board. This designation is predicated upon the personnel assigned or riding on the unit, not the supplies carried.
- B. Paramedic Engines may be dispatched out of their first due area to meet above objective.
- C. Paramedic Engines should not be transferred to supply ALS coverage in areas short on medics.

NOTE: Career Engines or Trucks can be designated as "Paramedic". Volunteer Engines, Trucks, Squads or Utilities can be designated as "Paramedic".

- D. Whenever it may be in the patient's best interest, Company Commanders, Medic Units, and EMS Officers have the authority and are encouraged to request the dispatching of a Paramedic Engine company.

Section III: Patient Treatment

- A. Prior to the arrival of a Medic Unit:
1. The ALS and BLS providers on the Paramedic Engine will render care as outlined in the Maryland State Protocols. This care will be consistent with the supplies and equipment carried on the unit.
- B. Once the Medic Unit arrives:
1. All patient information (verbal and/or gathered written) and quality of care (skills performed prior to Medic Unit's arrival) will be transferred to the provider in charge of the Medic Unit or District EMS Officer.

Section IV. Upgrade Procedures

- A. The officer in charge of the Paramedic Engine, in consultation with the ALS provider, will determine if the ALS provider from the Engine will upgrade a BLS transport unit.
- B. The Officer in Charge of the Paramedic Engine should examine their options and use their discretion when upgrading BLS transport units. Factors to consider in the decision making process are when the patients' condition is critical, as well as when additional resources are in high demand or delayed.