
S.O.P. #: 600-18

SUBJECT: BLS TRANSPORT UNIT UPGRADE POLICY

DIVISION: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Objective: To facilitate adequate utilization of resources during times when medic units are staffed at the BLS level.

Section 1:

- A. In the event the EMS District Officer has an ETA of ten (10) minutes or less to an incident and the responding BLS transport unit is staffed by two (2) *qualified drivers, the EMS District Officer may upgrade the BLS transport unit. One of the providers will then drive the EMS District Officer's vehicle to the hospital under non-emergency conditions.

EXCEPTION: BLS transport units will not be upgraded by the EMS District Officer on an incident involving entrapment, or any incident requiring medical scene management (i.e. Family counseling, multiple agency interface, MCI, etc.) and at the discretion of the D.O. for Priority 1 patients, particularly patients requiring advanced/aggressive airway management.

1. For the purpose of this S.O.P., the term “*qualified drivers” refers to a volunteer company member who is at least 18 yrs. of age and has been authorized by the individual volunteer station to drive equipment which belongs to that station and is of comparable size to the vehicles currently in use by the EMS District Officer.
- B. If the EMS District Officer has an ETA to the scene of greater than ten (10) minutes, then the EMS District Officer may elect to have the next due medic unit handle the call.
- C. For those incidents outlined in ‘B’, the District EMS Officer has the discretion to upgrade the volunteer unit or allow the first arriving ALS unit to continue with care and transport.
- D. If a Paramedic Engine is at location with a BLS transport unit requiring upgrade, it is permissible to utilize the ALS provider off the Paramedic Engine to facilitate that upgrade. The officer in charge of the Paramedic Engine, in consultation with the EMS District Officer and the ALS provider, will determine if the ALS provider from the Engine will upgrade a BLS transport unit. In the event that the EMS District Officer is not on location, this decision will be made by the officer in charge of the Paramedic Engine, in consultation with the ALS provider.