

SUBJECT: AIR MEDICAL SUPPORT UTILIZATION

DATE: 7/01/2011

- I. **Authority:** Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.204, 1797.206, 1797.218. County of San Diego, Ambulance Ordinance, No 8787
- II. **Purpose:** To establish guidelines for the use of air medical resources within the County of San Diego EMS system.
- III. **Policy:** The County of San Diego EMS system shall include the utilization of authorized air medical resources.
- A. Any public safety agency on scene or a Base Hospital may call for air medical support. Considerations for utilization of air medical transport include:
1. A delay in ground transport could pose an immediate threat to the patient's health and safety,
 2. The difference between ground vs. air transport time and patient condition,
 3. Length of extrication time,
 4. The skill level of the transporting ground unit personnel,
 5. Any specific operational problems precluding effective use of surface transport such as:
 - a. weather
 - b. traffic
 - c. access/egress routes
 - d. local resource capabilities during time unit will be out of service
 - e. multi-casualty incidents.
 6. Utilization of Air Ambulance
 - a. For a patient whose condition warrants rapid transport to medical facility.
 - b. For a patient whose condition requires advanced skills, not available on a paramedic unit.

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Approved:



Administration



EMS Medical Director

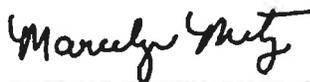
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- c. For multiple patient incidents when ground transport resources are inadequate.
- 7. Utilization of ALS rescue aircraft
 - a. Utilize for rescue/rendezvous purposes primarily. Patient care shall be transferred after rescue efforts to the provider on scene with the most appropriate level of care required by patient condition.
 - b. ALS Rescue Aircraft shall only transport patients in coordination and conjunction with Air Ambulance agencies.
 - 8. Utilization of Auxiliary Rescue Aircraft
 - a. Utilize for rescue/rendezvous purposes only and shall not be for transportation to a medical facility.
 - b. Patient care shall be transferred after rescue efforts to the provider on scene with the most appropriate level of care required by patient condition.
 - c. ALS or BLS ground transport providers shall not transport the patient via Auxiliary rescue aircraft to a medical facility.
- B. It is solely the requesting party's responsibility to cancel EMS air medical resources.

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