

SUBJECT: **ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDER UNIT**

Date: 7/01/2010

- I. **Authority:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.204, 1797.218, and 1797.220.
- II. **Purpose:** To offer a mechanism for designated paramedic service agencies in San Diego County to provide advanced life support (ALS) assessment and initial treatment to patients by paramedics prior to the arrival of a transporting unit.
- III. **Definitions:**
- A. An ALS first responder unit is defined as a non-transporting emergency response vehicle utilized by a designated paramedic service provider which is staffed by at least one (1) paramedic and one (1) EMT, and which complies with the operational criteria outlined in this policy.
- B. An ALS transporting unit is defined as an emergency response vehicle utilized for patient transport which is staffed with at least one (1) paramedic and one (1) EMT and which complies with the operational criteria as outlined in County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services (EMS) policy P-801.
- C. A BLS transporting unit is defined as a response vehicle utilized for emergent or non-emergent patient transport which is staffed with two (2) EMTs and which complies with the operational criteria as outlined in County of San Diego EMS policy B-833.
- IV. **Policy:**
- A. Staffing for an ALS first responder unit in San Diego County shall include at a minimum one (1) paramedic and one (1) EMT. ALS first responder units shall be equipped with standardized inventory as specified in County of San Diego EMS policy P-806.
- B. The closest/most appropriate, available ALS transporting unit shall be dispatched simultaneously with the ALS first responder unit if the response meets established

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Approved:



Administrator



Medical Director

criteria for dispatch of an ALS unit.

- C. If ALS care is initiated and an ALS transporting unit remains unavailable, the ALS first responder unit paramedic shall accompany the patient to the hospital in a BLS transporting unit.
- D. Each ALS first responder unit will be assigned to a Base Hospital for medical control, by the local EMS agency.
- E. Approved service provider agencies shall have a current ALS service provider agreement with the County of San Diego EMS.

V. Procedure:

A. Application/Approval Process:

Application for use of ALS first responder unit(s) shall be submitted in writing to the Medical Director, County of San Diego EMS and shall include:

1. Identification, location, and average response times of the transporting ALS unit assigned to the geographical area.
2. Identification, location, and average response times of the proposed ALS first responder unit(s).
3. Description of the proposed ALS first responder unit staffing, to include level(s) of training.
4. A statement indicating what optional equipment (if any) will be included in the inventory of the ALS first responder unit.

B. Operational Requirements:

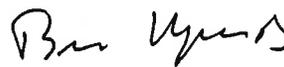
When the ALS first responder unit arrives on scene prior to the transporting ALS unit, the ALS First Responder paramedic shall:

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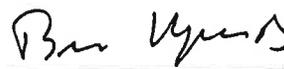
1. Assess and treat the patient.
2. If the First Responder paramedic does not accompany the patient to the hospital, transfer of care and information shall occur at the earliest most appropriate time to facilitate continuity of care and prevent any delay in care.
3. First Responder paramedics shall submit completed prehospital patient records in accordance with policy S-601.

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