

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4000
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SCENE MANAGEMENT

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for management of an emergency medical scene.

II. POLICY

A. Authority for Scene Management

1. As stated in California Health and Safety Codes Section 1798.6, “authority for the management of the scene of an emergency shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency that has investigative authority” (Law Enforcement, Fire Department, and/or the Monterey County Health Officer). “The scene of an emergency shall be managed in a manner to minimize the risk of death or health impairment to the patient and to other persons who may be exposed to the risks as a result of the emergency condition, and priority shall be placed upon the interests of those persons exposed to the more serious and immediate risks of life and health. Public Safety officials shall consult emergency medical services personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in the determination of relevant risks.”

B. Authority for Patient Health Care Management

1. As stated in California Health and Safety Code Section 1798.6, “Authority for patient health care management in an emergency shall be vested in that licensed or certified health care professional, that may include any Paramedic or other prehospital emergency personnel, at the scene of the emergency who is most medically qualified specific to the rendering of emergency medical care. If no licensed or certified health care professional is available. The authority shall be vested in the most appropriate medically qualified representative of public safety agencies who may have responded to the scene of the emergency.”

III. PROCEDURE


A. Scene management or incident organization should be based on the Incident Command System (ICS) and established ICS procedures.

1. The first arriving unit on-scene shall assume the role of Incident Commander (IC).
 - a. The IC shall immediately assess the scene and situation. The IC shall inform County Communications of the following:
 - 1) Traffic and/or other hazards
 - 2) Approximate number of victims
 - 3) Additional needed resources

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- 4) Any extrication difficulties
- 5) Known/suspected presence of hazardous materials
- b. All requests for additional resources shall be directed to the Monterey County Communications Center.
2. Disagreements pertaining to triage or patient care arising at the scene of an emergency should be resolved by the IC in consultation with the highest medical authority on-scene. Discussion of the disagreement shall be conducted in a professional manner. The discussion shall not be conducted in the presence of the patient or general public.
3. Rescue and extrication will be performed by appropriate agencies, as necessary. Trapped patients shall be treated to the extent possible to prevent a deterioration in the patient's condition while extrication is being performed.
4. For incidents involving multiple patients, medical care and scene management shall be handled in accordance with guidelines established in the Monterey County Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) Plan when applicable.

END OF POLICY


John Beuerle, M.D.
EMS Medical Director


Teresa Rios
EMS Bureau Chief