

**CITY OF AUBURN HILLS
FIRE DEPARTMENT
OPERATIONAL GUIDELINE**

SUBJECT: Tactical Guidelines for Medical Emergencies, Personal Injury Accidents, & Extrication	NUMBER: 208
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Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for dispatching of emergency personnel to medical emergencies, including personal injury accidents with or without extrication.

Definitions:

A. Basic Life Support (BLS)

Emergency medical care provided by emergency medical technicians (EMT's) as defined by Oakland County Medical Control.

Transporting BLS – Minimum two (2) EMT's

Non-transporting BLS – Minimum one (1) EMT

B. Advanced Life Support (ALS)

Emergency medical care provided by paramedics as defined by Oakland County Medical Control.

Transporting ALS – Minimum two (2) paramedics

Non-transporting ALS – Minimum one (1) paramedic

C. Medical Emergency

An emergency related to an illness or injury that requires the attention of trained medical personnel.

D. Personal Injury Accident

Any incident involving injuries of one or more persons as the direct result of a motor vehicle accident.

E. Extrication

Any incident where a patient requires special rescue tools or techniques to remove them from the hazard.

Procedure:

Upon receipt of a call for a medical emergency or injury accident the Fire Department shall be dispatched.

Medical Emergency Procedure:

Upon arrival at the scene of a medical emergency Fire Department personnel will survey the scene to ensure scene safety. If the scene appears unsafe to rescuers they shall retreat to a safe distance and no entry into the scene will be made until it is deemed safe by the Police Department or the incident commander.

All treatment and care provided by fire department personnel will be done in accordance with current Oakland County Medical Control Protocols. Any variation from these accepted protocols will be documented in the patient care report.

Basic Life Support:

BLS transporting units operating on the scene of a medical emergency will treat patients within their scope of practice as defined by Oakland County Medical Control. If after assessment by BLS personnel the patient does not require ALS intervention and at the approval of on-line medical control will transport the patient to an approved medical facility as defined by Oakland County Medical Control. If the ALS unit arrival will be delayed greater than ten (10) minutes the patient will be transported by the BLS unit to the closest most appropriate medical facility. In the interest of patient care, attention should be placed upon the amount of time spent on scene. Minimal delays in care and transport should be observed and any difficulties to this should be noted in the patient care report.

BLS non-transporting units operating on the scene of a medical emergency will treat patients within their scope of practice as defined by Oakland County Medical Control. Upon arrival of a BLS transporting or ALS transporting unit the crew of the non-transporting BLS unit will give a full verbal report and transfer patient care to the transporting unit. If possible the non-transporting BLS unit will remain on scene to assist the transporting unit with additional care and loading into the ambulance. If directed by the transporting unit and manpower permitting the non-transporting unit will allow one person to ride to the hospital to assist with patient care if necessary.

Advanced Life Support:

ALS transporting units operating on the scene of a medical emergency will treat patients within their scope of practice as defined by Oakland County Medical Control. If after assessment by ALS personnel the patient is deemed BLS and with the approval of on-line medical control, patient care can be transferred to a transporting BLS for transport to an approved medical facility as defined by Oakland County Medical Control. In the interest of patient care attention should be placed upon the amount of time spent on scene. Minimal delays in care and transport should be observed and any difficulties to this should be noted in the patient care report.

ALS non-transporting units operating on the scene of a medical emergency will treat patients within their scope of practice as defined by Oakland County Medical Control. Upon arrival of an ALS transporting unit the crew of the non-transporting ALS unit will give a full verbal report and transfer patient care to the transporting unit. If possible the non-transporting ALS unit will remain on scene to assist the transporting unit with additional care and loading into the ambulance. If directed by the transporting unit and manpower permitting the non-transporting unit will allow one person to ride to the hospital to assist with patient care if necessary. If the transporting unit is BLS and the patient is deemed to be a BLS patient, with the approval of on-line medical control patient care can be transferred to the BLS unit. If the patient requires ALS interventions or ALS monitoring the medic from the non-transporting unit will take their equipment and place it on the transporting BLS unit. This medic will continue to care for the patient until care is transferred at an approved emergency center. The non-transporting ALS unit will return to the station out of service as an ALS unit until the medic and equipment is returned to the unit.

Private EMS Transport:

If a Fire Department non-transporting unit is on the scene of a medical emergency and the private EMS agency is unable to provide an ambulance the incident commander shall direct dispatch to contact Rochester Hills Fire Department and request BLS or ALS transport based on the nature of the medical. The incident commander after the incident shall inform the Chief of Operations as to the nature of the call and the circumstances surrounding the no response.

Documentation:

Every medical emergency or injury accident where patient care or initial patient assessment was initiated an Oakland County EMS Run Form will be completed. This document will serve as a legal document of care and services provided by Fire Department EMS personnel. Every effort on the part of the author will be made to ensure accurate and thorough information is included in the report. Any further documentation such as supplemental reports and billing information will be completed in the thorough manner before turning the report in.

Refusals:

When the patient refuses care or transportation from the Fire Department upon our recommendation the patient will be allowed to refuse care if they meet the requirements set forth by the Oakland County Medical Control. Every effort shall be made to inform the patient the possible outcomes of refusal and to give direction what to do if condition worsens. The EMS crew will completely fill out the run form with proper documentation including all appropriate signatures.

Personal Injury Accident / Extrication:

Upon arrival of first apparatus a scene size up shall be conducted. Strict attention to placement of apparatus to protect on scene personnel is paramount. The incident commander shall evaluate all potential hazards and prepare to protect against them. A brief radio report to responding units as to the number and type of vehicles involved as well as the number and severity on injured patients shall be given. The incident commander shall also give direction for placement of responding apparatus and job assignments for each unit. Additional resources should be called for early and when appropriate.

Extrication shall be performed when it is necessary to safely remove the patient from the object. Techniques and tools used will vary depending upon the situation. The on scene incident commander shall exercise good judgment on what is the most appropriate action to take to remove the patient from the situation.