

# SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

**Policy Reference No.: 4030**  
**Effective Date: August 1, 2008**  
**Review Date: January 1, 2011**  
**Supersedes: February 1, 2004**

## INTERCOUNTY AND BRIDGE RESPONSE

### I. PURPOSE

- A. Establish guidelines for ambulances that are on scene of medical emergencies outside of San Francisco.
- B. Establish transport guidelines for situations in which access to San Francisco hospitals may be limited or impossible.
- C. Define responsibilities for the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges.

### II. AUTHORITY

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.204, 1797.220, 1797.222, 1798, and 1798.163
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100147, 100175, and 1000258

### III. POLICY

- A. Whenever possible calls of a known origin outside of San Francisco will be referred to the local PSAP by the DEC.
- B. San Francisco paramedics shall always operate under San Francisco EMSS policies and protocols while on duty with a San Francisco ALS Provider, regardless of incident location.
- C. When operating as part of a medical mutual aid response, the Incident Command team will make destination decisions and decisions regarding unusual circumstances. San Francisco paramedics shall follow the directions of the Incident Command team while assigned to the incident.
  - 1. San Francisco paramedics are not authorized to exceed their scope of practice as defined in EMSS Policies.
- D. Golden Gate Bridge Response
  - 1. The National Park Service is responsible for primary response to the Golden Gate Bridge.
  - 2. When the DEC receives calls in the National Park Service jurisdiction shall be transferred to the National Park Service dispatch center.
  - 3. Additional resources may be dispatched from either Marin or San Francisco depending on bridge access and unit availability.
- E. Bay Bridge Response
  - 1. Requests for response on the Bay Bridge will be processed and assigned using standard dispatch procedure.
  - 2. Additional resources shall be requested from Alameda County if the scene is in Alameda County, or if conditions are such that a unit

responding from Oakland will arrive sooner than a unit from San Francisco's jurisdiction.

#### **IV. PROCEDURE**

A. San Francisco paramedics on calls outside of San Francisco remain under the medical control of San Francisco and shall utilize EMSS Protocols.

1. If dispatched to a call that is found to be outside San Francisco, the unit will provide care and transportation in accordance with EMSS policies.

a) If multiple ALS units arrive on scene, the first arriving ALS transport unit will maintain medical control and transport the patient unless a compelling reason exists to turn patient care over to another unit.

2. On views:

a) If possible, stop at the scene

b) Request local ALS response to the incident

c) Render aid

d) Turn patient care over to local ALS personnel

B. Patients meeting trauma triage criteria on bridges shall be taken to the most accessible Level I or Level II trauma center.

1. Bay Bridge: Highland General Hospital in Oakland or San Francisco General Hospital

a) Pediatric trauma patients being transported to the East Bay from the Bay Bridge must be transported to Oakland Children's Hospital.

2. Golden Gate Bridge: San Francisco General Hospital, or a Regional Level II Trauma Center most accessible by ground or air transport.

3. When transporting to a hospital that does not have 800MHz capabilities, ambulances must notify the intended receiving facility through the DEC or private dispatch center.