



ARTICLE VI. REQUIREMENTS: AIR TRANSPORT

Section 602: Prehospital Air Ambulance and Air Rescue Service
Activation Procedure: Pilot

I. APPLICATION:

This procedure defines the activation process for air ambulance or air rescue response to prehospital emergency medical incidents within Orange County.

II. ACTIVATION PROCESS:

A. Authorized service requesters:

A request for an air ambulance or air rescue may only be made by the following OCEMS authorized service requesters:

1. Fire services personnel
2. Law enforcement agency personnel
3. Lifeguards
4. Forestry personnel
5. Park rangers

B. Guidelines for activation:

The public safety incident commander shall determine the need for an air ambulance or air rescue based upon the following considerations:

1. Safe operating conditions at the scene.
2. Ground versus air ambulance or air rescue response and transport time factors as they relate to:
 - a. Patient(s) status
 - b. Location of incident
 - c. Location of appropriate receiving center
 - d. Availability of ground transport
 - e. Availability of air transport
 - f. Air ambulance; air rescue needs
 - g. Need to transfer patient to landing zone (LZ)

C. Process for activation:

The public safety incident commander shall report directly to the COORDINATING AGENCY, or the appropriate public safety dispatch agency, the:

1. Type and location of incident
2. Number of victims
3. Type of aircraft requested;
 - a. Air ambulance or if unavailable or inappropriate
 - b. Air rescue

Approved:

P/P: 720.00-602
Reformatted Date: March, 2004



ORANGE COUNTY AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS
Section 602: Prehospital Air Ambulance and Air Rescue Service
Activation Procedure: Pilot



4. Location of helicopter landing zone including geographical landmarks and potential hazards
 5. Local weather conditions: visibility, fog, winds, etc.
 6. Paramedic receiving center destination, once assigned
- D. The public safety dispatch agency or the COORDINATING AGENCY shall notify the following facilities/agencies when an air ambulance or air rescue is activated:
1. The requester
 2. Requester's dispatch center
 3. Law enforcement for the scene's jurisdiction
 4. Law enforcement for the paramedic receiving center's jurisdiction
 5. Base hospital assigned to the incident
 6. Assigned paramedic receiving center
- E. Priority assignment:

The air ambulance or air rescue service COORDINATING AGENCY shall utilize the following priority assignment guidelines:

1. An air ambulance shall have priority assignment for medical incidents. Air rescue may be called if the air ambulance is unavailable ("unavailable" means an estimated time of arrival or ETA is more than 30 minutes) or for air search and rescue service.
 2. A request for ACTIVATION shall supersede a STAND-BY request. (The air ambulance or air rescue service COORDINATING AGENCY shall immediately notify the requester placing the air ambulance or air rescue on STAND-BY of ACTIVATION to another scene.)
 3. For multiple requests: With the concurrence, of the originating requester, the air ambulance or air rescue may be directed to another scene. (The air ambulance or air rescue service COORDINATOR AGENCY must advise the first requesting public safety dispatch agency or coordinating agency of other subsequent calls and/or requests.)
- F. Guidelines for transport:
1. Determination on the method of transportation shall be made with the concurrence of the BH physician (for medical reasons) and the incident commander (for scene management consideration.)
 2. If BH contact cannot be established or maintained, the decision for the method of transportation shall be made with the concurrence of the highest medical authority on scene.
- G. Guidelines for cancellations:
1. The decision to cancel the air ambulance or air rescue may be made by:
 - a. The pilot in command of the aircraft.

Approved:

P/P: 720.00-602
Reformatted Date: March, 2004



ORANGE COUNTY AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS
Section 602: Prehospital Air Ambulance and Air Rescue Service
Activation Procedure: Pilot



- b. The public safety incident commander based upon scene management considerations, or upon instruction of the assigned BH physician for medical reasons.
- 2. The requester must notify the public safety dispatch agency or **Coordinating Agency** when the air ambulance or air rescue is canceled.
- 3. The public safety dispatch agency or COORDINATING AGENCY shall notify all agencies involved in the activation process, of the **cancellation** of the air ambulance or air rescue request.

NOTE: Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Section 1797.204 and 1798. The local EMS agency shall plan, implement, and evaluate an emergency medical services system, in accordance with the provisions of this part, consisting of an organized pattern of readiness and consisting of an organized pattern of readiness and response services based on public and private agreements and operational procedures. Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 8, Section 100276 - 100306.

County of Orange Ambulance Ordinance No. 3517 and applicable Contract City Ordinances, Section 4-9-14: Rules and Regulations (a) As to all sections of this Division except Section 4-9-13, Health Officer* shall make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement this Division. Prior to adoption, proposed rules and regulations shall be submitted to the Orange County Emergency Medical Care Committee for comment.

Approved:

P/P: 720.00-602
Reformatted Date: March, 2004