

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MANUAL
San Jose Fire Department

Chapter Title: SJFD EMS

Section No. 900

Section Title: General Policies

Effective Date: May 2004

900.19 EMS Response to County Jail

Introduction

The medical staff at the Santa Clara County Main Jail are trained and equipped to provide basic life support in the event of a medical emergency. When a medical emergency arises, the medical staff is instructed to activate the 9-1-1 system. A San Jose Fire Department ALS Company will be dispatched to the incident to provide prompt pre-hospital emergency medical care consistent with the standard of care rendered at all medical emergencies.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a Standard Response Protocol for ensuring the Fire Department's ability to provide prompt medical care to inmates, staff and visitors to the Main Jail.

Standard Response Protocol

The following equipment will be carried on all EMS responses to the Main County jail:

- A. Cell phone.
- B. Biological PPE (EMS gloves, eye protection, N-95 mask, hand-wipes, Tyvek apron).
- C. EMS equipment appropriate for the situation.
- D. Fire radio. NOTE: Radio transmission may be ineffective from some specific locations inside the Jail. If an attempt to transmit is unsuccessful, re-attempt the transmission from a different location. Company Officers must make arrangements for periodic walk-throughs to pre-plan and become familiar with transmission capability and to identify potential "dead-spots".

Special Note: Rescue knives shall to be left in the apparatus. Rescue scissors must be secured in the airway bag or drug box prior to facility entry.

Inmate-Patient Infection Control Protection

- A. Due to a higher incidence of potential infectious diseases in the inmate population, appropriate biological PPE ***must be worn*** for all patient contacts.
- B. If any patient is coughing, or the inmate-patient is known to have active TB (based on medical history provided by jail medical staff), or if there is a risk of contact with a patients blood/body fluids, all fire personnel ***must wear*** their N-95 masks.
- C. Special care must be made to manage the inventory of all EMS equipment, and the safe management of all "sharps" If any fire department equipment or supplies are "lost" inside the jail immediately report missing object.

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Special Jail Precautions

Company Officers are responsible for ensuring that all Fire personnel adhere to special jail precautions whenever entering the Main Jail facility.

- A. Upon arrival, make contact with the Department of Corrections (DOC) Officer and report to Fire Communications that you have entered the jail and are enroute to make patient Contact. Record the time.
- B. Prior to entry, confirm DOC Security Protocols* are in effect and the “Scene is Secure” with the DOC Officer.
- C. Obtain a DOC Escort Officer.
- D. Proceed to the patient with the Escort Officer.
- E. Ensure the Escort Officer remains with the Fire Department Company.
- F. Once you have made patient contact notify Fire Communications. Record the time.

*Doc Security Protocols

The following Security Protocols are to be in effect prior to the entry of EMS personnel to the Jail. If Security Protocols are not maintained, the Company Officer is authorized to stop, advise the Escort Officer, and back away from the potential hazard, until the Security Protocols are confirmed.

Inmates are to be secured by the DOC Officers prior to travel by fire personnel in the facility, according to the following guidelines.

- A. All inmates (regardless of color of clothing) will be secured in a cell, or restrained or removed from the area and locked behind a door.
- B. South Jail inmates are to sit on their bunk away from the barred doors of their cell.
- C. Infirmary dorm (Room 298) DOC staff will move the patients to the front the nurse’s desk area (located immediately outside of the Infirmary dorm).

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Concerns or Complaints

- A. The Department of Corrections is committed to ensuring the security and safety of all responding Fire personnel. Company Officers are to immediately bring to the attention of the Escort Officer or Supervising Sergeant any issue in which there is a compromise of established security protocol. Concerns or complaints that may require changes to established security protocol should be brought to the attention of the DOC Watch Commander and the Fire BC.

- B. An Unusual Occurrence Report (UOR), authored by the Company Officer, will be completed before the end of the shift for:
 - 1. Serious breeches of safety protocols.
 - 2. Any situation that results in a time delay of providing patient care (exceeding 4 minutes after arriving on-scene), or fire personnel are unable access to the patient.
 - 3. Concerns regarding the care of the patient prior to the arrival of Fire personnel.

- C. In all cases in which a UOR is initiated, the EMS Field Coordinator shall be contacted as soon as possible and before the end of the shift.

- D. Violations or breeches of the Security Protocols shall be reported to the on duty BC. The BC will notify the DOC Watch Commander (299-3337).