

Standard Operating Procedure PATIENT TRANSPORT	PEORIA FIRE-MEDICAL DEPARTMENT EMS 400.03 Rev. 02/12/2015 Page 1 of 2
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PURPOSE

In order to facilitate the most efficient transfer of patient care from the Peoria Fire-Medical Department and the ambulance company for patient treatment and/or transportation.

POLICY

Upon arrival at the scene of a medical emergency where patient care is being provided by Fire Department personnel, the ambulance crews have been directed to seek out the officer in charge of the scene for a report on the patient care already provided and for possible assignments to assist in any additional care.

Fire Department personnel will remain in charge of patient care.

Prior to transport, the ambulance technician and the officer in charge of site operations (or his representative responsible for coordinating hospital allocation and patient transportation) shall cooperatively determine the patient's readiness for transport while not interfering with the care already provided. Code 2 or 3 transportation will be determined at that time. If responding code 3 to the hospital, the Company Officer shall consider an additional crew member to ride up front for safety reasons.

All loading of patients into the ambulance will be under the direction of ambulance company personnel.

At the time the patient is placed into the ambulance, the Fire Department will remain responsible for patient care, except where only BLS care is needed and no further ALS assessment is required. Patient care may be assumed by the ambulance crew if further treatment and transport require only BLS care. For those patients requiring ALS care or continued assessment, the Peoria Fire-Medical Department will maintain responsibility for patient care throughout the transport until patient care is turned over to the receiving hospital, regardless of the ALS status of the responding ambulance.

When Peoria Fire-Medical Department has responded into a county island area in response to a request for assistance by Rural Metro, and when Rural Metro is responding with an ALS engine or ALS ambulance, Peoria Fire-Medical Department members may transfer the care and disposition of ALS patients to the on-scene Rural Metro unit. However, If the patient's condition warrants immediate transport, Peoria

Standard Operating Procedure PATIENT TRANSPORT	PEORIA FIRE-MEDICAL DEPARTMENT EMS 400.03 Rev. 02/12/2015 Page 2 of 2
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Fire-Medical Department Paramedics will accompany the patient to the closest appropriate medical facility.

Other than county island responses, Peoria Fire-Medical Department paramedics are not to turn over ALS patient care over to private ambulance paramedics except in rare cases when there is a disaster or mass casualty situation in which a shortage of Fire Department Paramedics exists.

Should the patient's condition or the number of patients necessitate more than one Emergency Medical Technician in the patient compartment to appropriately treat the patient(s), the Fire Department will provide personnel to maintain needed patient care during transport.

Where the ambulance company has arrived on the scene of an EMS incident, prior to the arrival of a Fire Department unit, the following procedures will be followed.

The officer in charge of the subsequently arriving Fire Department unit will seek out the ambulance personnel in charge for a report on the condition of the patient, and any treatment that may have been provided.

Following this transfer of information, the Fire Department officer will assume command of the incident.

Where the ambulance company's Advanced Life Support personnel have initiated Advanced Life Support treatment, they shall remain in charge of patient care. However, unless the response is in the jurisdiction of Maricopa County, a Fire Department paramedic will still accompany the patient during transport, if the patient requires ALS care.

It shall be the responsibility of all agencies providing patient care to cooperate and assist in treatment and transportation requirements.

Approved:



 Bobby Ruiz, Fire Chief

02/12/2015

Date