

Standard Operating Procedure DISPOSITION & TRANSPORTATION OF DECEASED PERSONS	PEORIA FIRE-MEDICAL DEPARTMENT EMS 400.11 Rev. 01/03/2015 Page 1 of 2
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide crews with guidance regarding the disposition and transportation of deceased persons. This procedure shall apply only to those situations where death is obvious (rigor, decapitation, lividity, decomposition, or field termination of resuscitation and no treatment is indicated.)

Deceased persons shall not be transported in ambulances.

POLICY

Non traumatic death – No evidence of a crime

If the patient presents as deceased, as described above, it may be assumed that no medical emergency exists. The Police Department shall be called to take disposition of the body. If the death was an expected event and funeral arrangements have been made the Police Department will assist the family in contacting the mortuary. The Police Department will contact the attending physician of the patient, obtain a signature on the Death Certificate, and be able to turn the disposition of the body over to mortuary personnel.

Peoria Fire Department personnel should also consider requesting additional resources for family members of the deceased, such as the Crisis Response (CR) unit and Department Chaplain

In situations where no family members are present, the Maricopa County Medical Examiner’s office, in addition to the Police Department, will be contacted to make arrangements for transportation.

Traumatic Death Due to Crime or Suspicious Circumstances

Situations where an obvious death has occurred and suspicious circumstances exist are considered crime scenes and will be investigated by the Police Department. In these situations, every effort should be made to preserve the chain of evidence at the scene.

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Document any movement of the patient's body or other items at the scene prior to the Police Department's arrival and secure the scene until it is turned over to a Police officer.

The disposition of the body will be the responsibility of the Police Department and the Medical Examiner's Office.

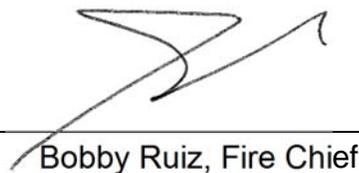
Fire Deaths

If a death occurs as a result of a fire incident, fire Investigators will conduct their investigations and coordinate disposition of the body with the Police Department.

Transportation of Dead Bodies

Transportation of a dead body is the responsibility of the selected mortuary or the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office. Ambulances will not be used for such transportation.

Approved:



Bobby Ruiz, Fire Chief

01/03/2015

Date