



MUTUAL AID AND COORDINATION WITH NEIGHBORING SYSTEM

Authority for this policy is noted in Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1798.162, 1798.163, 1798.170 California Code of Regulations Section 100255

I. Purpose

- A. To ensure that critical trauma patients are treated at an appropriate facility, regardless of geopolitical boundaries and to facilitate coordination with neighboring systems.

II. Definition

- A. "Trauma Center" or "designated trauma center" means a licensed hospital, accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, which has been designated as a Level I, II, III, or IV trauma center and/or Level I or II pediatric trauma center by the local EMS agency, in accordance with California Trauma Care System Regulations.

III. Policy

- A. Santa Cruz EMS will coordinate its trauma care system with those in neighboring EMS systems in order to ensure that patients are transported to the most accessible trauma facility equipped, staffed, and prepared to administer care appropriate to the needs of the patient. Written mutual aid agreements will be executed as necessary to ensure coordination with neighboring systems.
 1. Santa Cruz EMS will maintain contact with neighboring EMS agencies in order to monitor the status of trauma care systems in surrounding jurisdictions.
 2. Santa Cruz County will contact the Santa Clara EMS agency to seek appropriate trauma service coordination.
- B. Where patients from Santa Cruz County are transported to a trauma center in another EMS system, Santa Cruz EMS will seek trauma registry information.
- C. Where patients from another EMS system are transported to a Santa Cruz EMS receiving hospital, Santa Cruz EMS will attempt to provide a basic data set of patient information.
- D. Ambulance providers within Santa Cruz County are encouraged to cooperate with other EMS agencies in data collection and evaluation efforts of patients who are served by the Santa Cruz EMS system.