



Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center



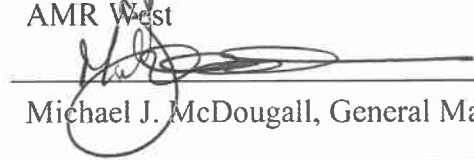
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9-1-1 FIRE
POLICE
MEDICAL



Michael J. McDougall
General Manager

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE POLICY

Policy No. 6210	Date Issued: June 1, 1996
Section: 6200 – Field Unit Safety	Date Revised: August 1, 2005
Accreditation Standards: None	
SUBJECT: FIELD UNIT SAFETY	
APPROVED:	 _____ Santa Cruz County EMS
APPROVED:	 _____ AMR West
APPROVED:	 _____ Michael J. McDougall, General Manager

The safety of paramedic service personnel in the field is always dispatchers' primary concern.

Dispatchers will assist emergency medical service (EMS) personnel in the performance of their duties by providing prompt notice of any conditions that may be hazardous to responders. Dispatchers will also provide prompt notice of any changes in incident status before responders' arrival.

Whenever dispatchers are aware of life safety hazards (downed power lines other than a WIRES call, major terrain obstacles such as landslides or holes in the ground, ammunition, etc.):

Dispatcher will immediately communicate hazards to all responding units by:

- ◆ Broadcasting warble tones
- ◆ Announcing hazardous conditions to all responding units and/or Incident Commanders (IC's), if established

- IC's are responsible for notifying "on scene" units of life safety hazards. IC's will advise NetCom when all on scene units have been notified of hazards. NetCom will update the computer aided dispatch system (CAD) with comments documenting IC's advisements.
- ◆ Confirming life safety hazard announcements are heard and understood by each responding unit via a roll call and CAD documentation
- ◆ Advising IC's when all units have acknowledged the transmission
- ◆ Advising any future units assigned to the incident of life safety hazards
- ◆ Contacting appropriate agencies to abate hazardous conditions and advising IC's of their estimated time of arrival (ETA)

Dispatchers will notify responders of conflicting reports of the location or scope of incidents, activities of citizens at the scene (for example, attempts to extinguish a fire or perform CPR), law enforcement responses, potential rescues, potential hazards (for example, downed power lines) and abnormal traffic conditions.