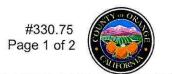




# TACTICAL MEDICINE



# I. <u>AUTHORITY</u>:

California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220, 221 and 1798. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 3.

# II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes the guidelines for medical support during tactical incidents.

# III. DEFINITIONS:

**Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)**: The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training develops training standards and evaluates/approves curriculum for basic police officer training programs in California.

**Tactical Medicine Training Program**: A POST-certified and EMSA-approved, specific, operational training program for tactical medicine providers and operators that trains EMS personnel to safely deliver medical care during a law enforcement response.

**Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Personnel**: Physicians, physician's assistants, paramedics, nurses or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) trained in tactical medicine who provide medical care during a tactical response utilizing their authorized scope of practice.

**Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**: Weapons or devices intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a significant number of people through the release of toxic chemicals, a disease organism, or radiation.

Area of Direct Threat: The area in which there is a direct and immediate threat.

**Indirect Threat**: A scenario in which a threat exists, but does not currently threaten the life the provider or patient.

**Evacuation Phase**: The area in which low significant danger or threat is reasonably anticipated for the provider or patient.

### IV. GUIDELINES:

#### A. PRINCIPLES:

- 1. Training is a critical role in the ability of TEMS personnel to effectively support law enforcement and contribute to the safe and successful resolution of critical incident responses.
- 2. These guidelines are not intended to replace existing EMS policies or circumvent the established response of EMS/law enforcement/Fire.
- 3. A primary objective of TEMS is to provide the appropriate medical stabilization and treatment of casualties as close to time of injury as possible.
- 4. The TEMS provider agency should participate in the pre-planning of incident management.
- 5. Non-TEMS EMS personnel who operate in the evacuation zone should receive an orientation to TEMS operations.

OCEMS Policy #330.75

Effective Date: April 1, 2014



### TACTICAL MEDICINE



#### B. POLICY:

# 1. Certification/Licensing

- a. Paramedics who are a member of a TEMS team shall be employed, on duty and sponsored by an approved Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider. Paramedics shall be licensed by the State and accredited in Orange County.
- EMTs shall be certified by the State and have successfully completed the Orange County EMT Accreditation.
- c. Physicians, nurses, physician's assistants and other medical practitioners shall be licensed by the appropriate state and national authorities and demonstrate evidence of clinically relevant skills.
- d. All authorized Orange County TEMS providers shall be sponsored by a law enforcement agency.

### 2. Training

a. TEMS personnel who operate within the area of direct threat shall be trained, at minimum through a POST-certified and EMSA-approved or equivalent tactical medicine training program.

# 3. Deployment

- a. The TEMS provider/agency should participate in the pre-planning of incident management, using standardized written forms, when possible.
- b. TEMS personnel should be familiar with the location of the nearest medical centers, paramedic base hospitals and specialty centers such as trauma and pediatric trauma centers.
- c. When responding to jurisdictions outside of Orange County, TEMS personnel shall operate within the Orange County EMS Medical Director approved local accredited scope of practice.
- d. TEMS providers shall submit patient care records, as required by OCEMS.
- e. TEMS providers shall participate in the QI process, as required by OCEMS.
- f. TEMS providers shall participate in medical training as required by OCEMS.
- g. Orange County TEMS providers are encouraged to standardize equipment and procedures.

Approved:

**OCEMS Medical Director** 

OCEMS Administrator

Effective Date:

04/01/2014

Reviewed Date(s):

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