


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

**Cancellation Or Reduction Of ALS Response**

	Effective: 12/01/2016	Next Review: 07/2019	<b>848</b>
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
	Approval: Victoria Pinette – Executive Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE

**PURPOSE:**

To establish criteria for BLS personnel reducing or cancelling responding ALS resources.

**AUTHORITY:**

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, § 1797.204, 1797.220 and 1798.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, § 100147, 100169 and 100170.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. **Code 4 or Canceled Call** – No further assistance is needed by the Incident Commander (IC) or designee. Further responding units are canceled.
- B. **No Patient Contact** – Arrival at scene and unable to locate any patient. Verbal or physical contact with a patient has not been made.
- C. **Code 2** – Proceeding expeditiously but obeying all traffic laws without exception.
- D. **Code 3** – Proceeding with red lights and siren according to the vehicle code.
- E. **Competent Person** – A person with a capacity to understand the nature of his/her medical condition, and not impaired by alcohol, drugs or medications, mental illness, traumatic injury, grave disability or mental abilities diminished because of age.

**POLICY:**

- A. Reducing code of responding ALS resources:
  - 1. The IC or designee on the scene of a medical incident may reduce a responding ALS resource from Code 3 to Code 2 upon determination that, in the best judgment of the IC or designee, the illness or injury is not immediately life-threatening and that the difference in Code 3 and Code 2 response time would not likely have an impact on patient safety.

2. When an ambulance is reduced to Code 2, it is possible that the resource will be redirected to a different Code 3 call, resulting in a delayed ambulance response.

**B. Cancellation of responding ALS units:**

1. The IC or designee may cancel a responding ALS resource upon determination of the following:
  - That the incident does not involve an injury or illness which would require assessment, treatment or transport by ALS personnel; or,
  - When the patient is a competent adult and is refusing ALS assessment and or transport.
2. Before canceling the ALS resource, consider the medicolegal responsibility involved.
3. ALS personnel should attempt to make patient contact once they have arrived on scene and are in visual range of the patient.

**C. Incidents when ALS resources should not be canceled by BLS personnel include:**

1. Medical:
  - Cardiac arrest with active CPR
  - Cardiac symptoms
  - Difficulty breathing
  - Altered mental status
  - Drug ingestion
  - Seizures
  - Near drowning
  - Hemorrhage
  - All Pediatric patients < 3 years old
2. Patients who meet Trauma Triage Criteria as defined in S-SV EMS Trauma Triage Criteria Policy (860).

**CROSS REFERENCES:**

- A. Patient Initiated Released at Scene (RAS) or Patient Initiated Refusal of Service (AMA) (850).
- B. Treatment/Transport of Minors (851).
- C. Trauma Triage Criteria (860).