


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

**Alternate Transport Vehicles**

	Effective: 06/01/2017	Next Review: 03/2020	<b>416</b>
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**PURPOSE:**

To establish requirements for S-SV EMS approved alternate transport vehicles to transport patients to a Landing Zone (LZ) or Rendezvous Point (RP).

**AUTHORITY:**

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, § 1797.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 13, § 1100.2 and 1108.
- C. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.
- D. California Vehicle Code, § 2512 and 21055.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. Alternate Transport Vehicle – An S-SV EMS approved vehicle utilized by a non-transport EMS provider that has been specially constructed, modified or equipped, and used for transporting sick, injured, or otherwise incapacitated persons.
- B. Authorized Transport Provider – An S-SV EMS authorized EMS aircraft or ground ambulance transport provider.
- C. Landing Zone (LZ) – A location where an EMS aircraft can land to allow for the transfer of patient care.
- D. Rendezvous Point (RP) – A location that has been agreed to by both the alternate transport vehicle personel and the responding authorized transport provider personnel that would provide the most expeditious and safe transfer of a patient.

**POLICY:**

On limited occasions, alternate transport vehicles may be utilized to transport patients more expediently to rendezvous with an authorized transport provider at an LZ or RP, rather than waiting for an authorized transport provider to arrive on scene.

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Prior to moving a patient utilizing an alternate transport vehicle, on scene personnel shall contact the responding authorized transport provider to determine their estimated time of arrival (ETA).
- B. A risk/benefit assessment shall be completed prior to moving a patient utilizing an alternate transport vehicle. The following items shall be considered:
  1. Is the transport in the best interest of the patient?
  2. Is it the optimal way to transport the patient from the scene?
  3. What is the ETA to the LZ or RP?
  4. What is the ETA of the responding authorized transport provider?
  5. If transporting to an LZ, would the alternate transport vehicle be waiting at the LZ for EMS aircraft to arrive or would it be more appropriate to remain on scene for an approved transport provider without significantly delaying transfer of care to EMS aircraft personnel?
- C. All of the following criteria shall be met prior to moving a patient utilizing an alternate transport vehicle:
  1. The ETA of the alternate transport vehicle to the LZ or RP must be shorter than the ETA of the authorized transport vehicle to the LZ or RP.
  2. The alternate transport vehicle shall be able to provide a minimum of Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) level of care during transport.
  3. The alternate transport vehicle can provide for safe patient transportation in accordance with S-SV EMS policies.
  4. The highest medical authority on scene shall obtain base hospital permission prior to moving the patient in this manner. In the event that EMS personnel cannot establish or maintain adequate base hospital contact, the patient shall only be moved in an alternate transport vehicle if all other criteria in this policy are met.
- D. An alternate transport vehicle shall not transport a patient directly to the hospital unless specifically approved by the base hospital.
- E. An S-SV EMS approved patient care report (PCR) shall be completed for any patient moved in an alternate transport vehicle.