

Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy			
Medical Control At The Scene Of An Emergency			
	Effective: 10/01/2026	Next Review: 04/2029	835
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
	Approval: John Poland – Executive Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE

PURPOSE:

To define patient care and incident management responsibilities at the scene of a medical emergency.

AUTHORITY:

- A. HSC, Div. 2.5, § 1797.220, 1798.6.
- B. CCR, Title 22, Div. 9.

POLICY:

- A. Authority for patient health care management in an emergency shall be vested in that licensed or certified health care professional, which may include any paramedic, or other prehospital emergency personnel, at the scene of the emergency, who is most medically qualified specific to the provision of rendering emergency medical care. If no licensed or certified health care professional is available, the authority shall be vested in the most appropriate medically qualified representative of public safety agencies who may have responded to the scene of the emergency.
- B. Notwithstanding the above, authority for the overall management of the scene of an emergency shall be vested in the appropriate public safety agency having primary investigative authority. The scene of an emergency shall be managed in a manner designed to minimize the risk of death or health impairment to the patient and to other persons who may be exposed to the risks as a result of the emergency condition, and priority shall be placed upon the interests of those persons exposed to the more serious and immediate risks to life and health. Public safety officials shall consult EMS personnel or other authoritative health care professionals at the scene in the determination of relevant risks. Some limited examples are as follows:
 - 1. California Highway Patrol – All freeways; all roadways in unincorporated areas to include right-of-way.
 - 2. Sheriff's Office – Off-highway unincorporated areas (parks, private property, etc.).
 - 3. Local Fire/Police – Specific areas of authority within their jurisdiction, except freeways.
 - 4. Airport Fire/Police – Airports.

-
5. U.S. Military – National Defense Area; a military reservation or an area with “military reservation status” that is temporarily under military control, e.g., military aircraft crash site.

PROCEDURE:

- A. Medical management at the scene of a medical emergency includes:
 1. Medical evaluation and care.
 2. Medical aspects of extrication and patient movement.
 3. Patient destination decisions, in consultation with base/modified base hospital when necessary.
 4. Method and mode of transport.
- B. The first on duty ALS licensed/accredited or certified responder on the scene shall assume responsibility for the patient’s care unless they are cancelled by BLS personnel prior to patient contact, and there is no indication that ALS assessment/treatment is necessary.