

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 562
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References		Effective 12/22/87

I. POLICY

Transport of two or more patients from different incidents or scenes may be acceptable in areas where the response of an additional ambulance would be extended (e.g., rural and/or wilderness areas).

II. PROCEDURE

In rural areas where response times of a second ambulance will be prolonged and two incidents or medical aid calls occur simultaneously or consecutively, the ambulance personnel may determine that response to both calls and transport of patients from those incidents is appropriate. The following guidelines should be utilized when determining whether to respond the ambulance to both scenes for assessment and/or transport of both patients.

- A. Priority guidelines as determined by the EMS Dispatcher should assist the EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-Paramedic in determining their response to a second incident. The EMS Dispatcher is required to answer every request for service by responding an ambulance.
- B. The call with the highest priority designation should be responded to first provided that the ambulance is not already committed or near committed to the initial incident. Generally, if priorities of the calls are designated equally, the unit will respond to the call that was received first.
- C. Once an ambulance is on scene with the first patient, the initial patient cannot be abandoned. If the first patient is considered a STAT patient, response to the second incident by that ambulance should not occur and transport of the first patient should be immediate.
- D. Any time an ambulance in a rural setting has begun transport of a patient and a second ambulance is requested in the immediate vicinity, that ambulance may respond priority 3 to the scene to provide initial help or transportation only when:
 - 1. The patient being transported is not in critical condition; and,
 - 2. Diversion to the second call would not be greater than five minutes.
- E. If a closer ambulance (with a patient on board) arrives on scene and determines the patient should be transported with that unit, the on-scene EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-Paramedic may cancel the responding ambulance.

Approved By EMS Division Manager	Daniel J. Lynch (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision
EMS Medical Director	Jim Andrews, M.D. (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	04/19/2005

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- F. The Base Hospital should be involved in the determination of whether to transport both patients.
- G. Such coordination of resources is best effected by one central location tracking all responses. An ambulance shall not respond to a call unless that response has been approved by a designated EMS Communications Center.