

FINGER LAKES REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL, INC.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
in affiliation with Finger Lakes Community College

TO: All Agencies and Providers

FROM: Finger Lakes Regional EMS Council REMAC

DATE: September 24, 2012

REMAC ADVISORY

In a cardiac arrest situation, remember that every effort possible should be made to start transporting the patient to the nearest Emergency Department unless the patient meets criteria for a Field Termination. No time should be wasted with Airway or IV access if it appears as though it will delay transport. King LT and EZIO should be utilized to reduce time wasted on scene. FLREMAC protocols should be followed quickly with attention paid to quick defibrillation if indicated. Transport should be started as soon as enough providers are on scene to move the patient. Remember to utilize Medical Control as soon as possible if orders are required for further treatment. Please make sure that all review the FLREMAC protocols pertaining to resuscitation. If multiple agencies are involved, the primary agency should be in control if they have a Paramedic on scene, otherwise the most experienced Paramedic will assume command.

Be advised that "self dispatch" of any EMS or FIRE personnel is NOT allowed in FLREMS Region or in NYS. To respond to an emergency scene you must first be DISPATCHED by the appropriate County Dispatcher.

NYS — EMS POLICY

- *Every EMS response vehicle must be driven safely at all times, usually not exceeding the speed limit. Drivers exercising any of the V&T Law privileges must do so cautiously and with due regard for the safety of all others.*

- *Types of Responses -*
 - *Non-emergency Operations - anytime an EMS response vehicle is out of the station on an assignment other than an emergency run, shall be considered to be a routine operation. All routine operations will be considered non-emergency and shall be made using headlights only - no light bars, beacons, corner or grill flashers or sirens shall be used. During a non-emergency operation, the ambulance shall be driven in a safe manner and is not authorized to use any emergency vehicle privileges as provided for in the V&T Law.*
 - *Emergency Operations - shall be limited to any response to the scene or the hospital where the driver of the emergency vehicle actually perceives, based on instructions received or information available to him or her, the call to be a true emergency. EMD dispatch classifications⁶, indicating a true or potentially true emergency should be used to determine the initial response type. Patient assessments made by a certified care provider, should determine the response type (usually C or U as an emergency) to the hospital. In order for a response to be a true or potentially true emergency, the operator or certified care provider must have an articulable⁷ reason to believe that emergency operations may make a difference in patient outcome. During an emergency operation headlights and all emergency lights shall be illuminated and the siren used as necessary.*
- *Each EMS response vehicle operator must recognize that the emergency vehicle has no absolute right of way, it is qualified and cannot be taken forcefully⁸.*
- *During emergency operations every EMS response vehicle must be operated in such a manner and at such a speed upon approaching an intersection, controlled by a traffic control device so as to permit safe passage through the intersection. Before entering the intersection the operator must reduce the speed of the vehicle to be able to stop the vehicle if necessary to permit such safe passage. They should come to a complete stop if they have a red signal or stop sign.⁹*
- *Every EMS response vehicle must stop upon encountering a stopped school bus with red lights flashing; any non controlled railroad crossing or railroad crossing at which safety gates and/or warning lights are activated or if requested by a police officer.*

- *EMS response vehicles are discouraged from using escorts or traveling in convoys due to the extreme dangers associated with multiple emergency vehicles operating in close proximity to each other. For the purpose of this policy statement and any developed from it emergency vehicles should maintain a spacing of at least 300 - 400 feet between them in ideal driving conditions and more when visibility is limited or road conditions are less than ideal.¹⁰*
- *At emergency scenes the use of emergency warning lights must be governed by the need to protect the safety of all personnel, patients and the public. In some cases the use of emergency lights should be minimized.*