

# Payson Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

**Section: EMS**  
**Subject: Fire Medic Ride In & Scene  
Transfer of Patient Care**

**SOP # 2.8.8**  
**Date: 12/17**  
**Revision Hx:**

*David Stewart*

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in recognizing patient care situations that may or may not require the ride in of a Payson Fire Department (PFD) paramedic.

## **POLICY**

Department personal shall utilize the procedures listed in this document when making a determination as to when a PFD paramedic will be required to ride in for patient transport; and when transferring patient care to the ambulance paramedic when a PFD paramedic ride in is not warranted.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **Paramedic Ride In Criteria**

A PFD paramedic shall ride in with the ambulance paramedic for patient transport when the following criteria are observed:

- Abnormal vital signs
- Altered mental status
- Acute stroke or abnormal neurological exam
- Cardiac arrest/return of circulation
- Acute MI
- Current, or risk of, unstable cardiac dysrhythmia
- Administration of medication by paramedic to support blood pressure (i.e. Dopamine infusion)
- Respiratory compromise or impending failure
- Trauma- all immediate (by injury) patients
- Uncontrolled or difficult to control bleeding
- Seizures-
  - Adult- Active seizure or status epilepticus
  - Pediatric- First-time seizure, active seizure, persistent febrile seizure, or status epilepticus
- Eclampsia/preeclampsia
- Imminent delivery
- Vaginal bleeding in a pregnant patient with a fetus of viable age (20 weeks)
- Agitated, combative, or restrained patient

In addition a PFD paramedic should consider riding in for patient transport:

- If the patient's condition does not meet the previously mentioned criteria but the PFD paramedic deems it necessary or believes that it would be in the patient's best interest;
- If medications are administered out of a PFD drug box;
- If requested to do so by the ambulance paramedic; or
- If the responding ambulance is a BLS unit

If a PFD paramedic chooses not to ride in with the patient in any of the above four situations, the member's rationale for that decision must be supported by his or her documentation.

### **Procedures for Transfer of Care to the Ambulance Paramedic**

In instances when the patient's condition does not warrant a PFD paramedic ride in patient care may be transferred to an ambulance paramedic. Before transfer of care occurs specific patient information shall be relayed to the ambulance paramedic in written form without unnecessarily delaying patient transport. At minimum this information shall include:

- Patient Personal Information:
  - Name
  - Age
  - Date of Birth
- Chief Complaint
- Vital Signs (not all that is listed is required to be assessed but shall be relayed if obtained):
  - Time Taken
  - Blood Pressure
  - Pulse Rate
  - Respiratory Rate
  - SPO<sub>2</sub> Levels
  - Blood Sugar
  - Temperature
  - ECG Strips
- Treatments Initiated & Response
- Additional Assessment Findings (not all that is listed is required to be assessed but shall be relayed if obtained):
  - Level of Consciousness/GCS
  - Skin Color/Temperature/Condition
  - Pupil Reaction
  - Lung Sounds
  - Physical Findings
- Pertinent Medical History
- Medications
- Allergies
- CN/Patch Information (if performed by PFD paramedic):
  - Time

- ER Physician's Name
- ER Nurse's Name
- Any Orders Received

### **PCR Documentation**

A transfer of care signature shall be obtained from the ambulance paramedic before the PFD unit clears the scene. A PCR report shall be fully completed and faxed to the base station within 24 hours.

### **EMS Supplies Restock**

Prior to departing the scene PFD crews should attempt to obtain EMS supplies restock from the ambulance crew if it does not delay patient transport. If this is not possible then an "EMS Supplies Restock Form" should be completed as soon as possible after the incident and the crew can either:

- Stop by Lifeline's crew quarters and submit the form to staff for restock; or
- Submit the form to the PFD's EMS Equipment & Supplies Manager.

The "EMS Supplies Restock Form" is located at O:\Share\Administration\Admin Support\FORMS\EMS Forms.