

SCENE ASSESSMENT-MULTIPLE REFUSALS

1. Purpose: To provide guidance for managing emergency scenes in which a patient(s) on scene warrants timely transport to the hospital and multiple patients are on scene refusing treatment and/or transport. For the purpose of this policy, patients warranting timely transport to the hospital include status 1 & 2 patients as well as status 3 patients presenting with significant injury and/or mechanism of injury.
2. Background:
 - 2.1. Ambulance crews routinely respond to scenes with multiple patients.
 - 2.2. The expectation of our ambulance personnel is to account for all patients on scene and provide appropriate medical care.
 - 2.3. In some cases, a patient(s) is/are on scene and warrant timely transport to the hospital while other patients on scene are refusing treatment and/or transport.
 - 2.4. In cases in which a patient or patients on scene refuse treatment and/or transport, the patient should, with permission, be fully assessed, including a complete set of vital signs.
 - 2.5. All refusals should be accompanied by a refusal form signed and witnessed as per our **REFUSAL Protocol**.
 - 2.6. Resources responding to emergency scenes vary significantly depending on a number of factors including but not limited to, location, call volume, availability of sprint truck, and local protocol regarding fire department and/or other first responders.
 - 2.7. Mass Casualty Incidents should be handled as per the **MASS CASUALTY RESPONSE Policy**.
3. Policy:
 - 3.1. Immediate scene assessment should be performed to identify the safety of the scene, the number of patients, and the mechanism of injury. The crew should account for all patients and initiate immediate treatment for the patients that provide consent.
 - 3.2. In the event that you encounter a scene in which one or more patients warrant timely transport to the hospital while other patients on scene are refusing treatment and/or transport, please employ the following strategy to minimize scene time and facilitate immediate transport to the hospital:
 - 3.2.1. **If not already en route, request additional unit(s) and/or sprint truck**—upon arrival of the second unit, a brief report should be provided and the transporting unit should depart the scene without further delay.
 - 3.2.2. **Additional unit and/or sprint unit is en route to scene**—in these cases, allow the responding unit to continue. Upon arrival, a brief report should be provided and the transporting unit should depart the scene without further delay.
 - 3.2.3. **Additional unit unavailable or not on scene yet**—In the event of a life or limb threatening injury and there is not an additional unit on scene, non-urgent patients may be left on scene under the care of fire department personnel, off duty LaSalle personnel, and/or other first responders if approved by the communications center supervisor or the operations supervisor.

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- 3.3. In all cases, the medic on scene responsible for assessing the additional patients and obtaining refusals should display a sense of urgency and when available, obtain assistance from fire department/rescue personnel and other first responders in securing vital signs and any other tasks that may minimize scene time. If there is no one present to offer assistance, the medic should obtain refusals as quickly as possible to minimize scene time.