

II. PURPOSE

To establish criteria and procedures for utilization of ambulance services within Alpine County and for those cases in which Alpine County EMS ambulance responds to Amador County for the care and transport of Emergency patients.

III. POLICY

- A. Alpine County Emergency Medical Services shall respond an ambulance to areas within the Alpine County EMS Response Area, and to areas within Amador County when dispatched by an Authorized EMS Dispatch Center.
- B. In order to reduce ambulance response times and minimize patient transport delays, Alpine County EMS will respond a BLS ambulance to EMS calls, and the appropriate ALS ambulance will be simultaneously dispatched .
- C. Patients in Alpine County shall be transported toward the closest appropriate acute care facility and rendezvous with an Mutual Aid ALS ambulance.
- D. Patients in Amador County shall be transported by Alpine County EMS ambulance: to rendezvous with a ground ALS ambulance, an air ambulance, or to an acute care facility only:
 - 1. upon direction provided by an authorized dispatch agency for Alpine County following direction from Amador County S.O. Dispatch, directly from Amador County S.O. Dispatch, or
 - 2. upon direction provided by an American Legion Ambulance Paramedic.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Ambulance Response to Alpine County EMS Response Area
 - 1. Ambulance response to Emergencies in the Alpine County EMS Response Area shall consist of a combination of Mutual Aid ALS Ambulance response and Alpine County's BLS ambulance response.
 - 2. Alpine County EMS Ambulance shall cancel Mutual Aid ambulance services upon determining that no ambulance services are required.
- B. Alpine County Mutual Aid Ambulance Response to Amador County
 - 1. Ambulance Response to Emergencies in Amador County shall consist of a combination of Mutual Aid from Alpine County's BLS ambulance and ALS response from American Legion Ambulance.

3. ALS Ambulance response shall not be canceled unless on-scene emergency personnel have determined that no ground ambulance is necessary to transport a patient to an acute care facility or rendezvous with air or ground ambulance resources.

C. Patient Transport from Alpine County

1. The Alpine County EMS ambulance staff shall assess and treat patients per Agency protocols on the scene of every Emergency and transport to rendezvous with the appropriate ALS ambulance per this policy.

D. Patient Transport from Amador County

1. The Alpine County EMS ambulance staff shall assess and treat patients per Agency protocols on the scene of every Emergency.
2. Alpine County EMS ambulance staff shall contact Amador County S.O. and receive direction concerning whether to:
 - a. wait on scene for an American Legion Ambulance, or
 - b. transport the patient to rendezvous with the American Legion Ambulance, or
 - c. whether to transport the patient to rendezvous with an alternate ALS ground ambulance or Air Ambulance.

E. Exceptions

1. Any decisions concerning patient treatment, ambulance transport, and rendezvous between ALS and BLS ambulances made by a Base Hospital shall take precedence over the rules set forth in this policy.
2. During an MCI, the requirements set forth in Agency MCI policies shall take precedence over the requirements in the Alpine County Specific Ambulance Policy.

F. Quality Improvement

1. The Alpine County BLS ambulance service shall conduct a quality improvement program approved by the Agency.