

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Emergency Operations	Code: E-XII-12
Suspected Sexual Assault	
Chpt: XII EMS	Revised: 1/16/12 Pages: 1

I. PURPOSE

A. To provide guidelines in the handling the victim of a rape/sexual assault and the preservation of the scene until the police department arrives.

II. POLICY

A. The fire department shall provide appropriate medical care to the victim of a rape and preserve the scene and evidence until the police department arrives.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Upon Arrival

1. Make every effort to gain the patient's confidence.
2. Evaluate needs of patient.
3. Provide appropriate emergency medical care.
4. Request Police Department response. (See [E-V-4](#) PD assistance and notification)
5. Notify BC of situation

IV. OPERATIONS

1. Secure the scene and clear the area of curious on-lookers.
2. Do not allow the patient to clean up or change clothes.
3. If clothing must be removed for treatment, keep track of clothing.
4. Keep in mind the patient's dignity and act accordingly.
5. Don't cover the patient with non department material. Use only new yellow blankets.
6. Be mindful of body fluids as they relate to evidence.
7. Listen for comments and statements and, if possible, make notes to pass on to PD.
8. Do not disturb possible evidence.