

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Emergency Operations	Code: E-XII-17
AMR Procedures	
Chpt: XII EMS	Revised: 2/23/12 Pages: 3

I. COMMUNICATIONS WITH AMR

A. The Santa Barbara City Fire Department authorizes American Medical Response (AMR) paramedic units to communicate emergency messages over the primary fire radio frequency (STB CH1, 154.775).

B. Use of the Santa Barbara City Fire Department primary radio frequency by American Medical Response units is restricted to the following types of communication exchanges involving:

1. Indicating Responses
2. Receiving or Providing Access Instructions
3. Code 3 Convergence near Intersections
4. Receive Patient/Victim Evaluation Information by Fire Unit First Responder.
5. Reduce/Upgrade/Cancel Response
6. Major Evacuation by Helicopter
7. Disaster

C. Fire first responders will perform a patient/victim size-up and briefly report that evaluation over the radio to incoming paramedic personnel.

D. This communication exchange is intended to reduce the number of unnecessary code 3 responses, better prepare incoming medical units for the problems they face, and enhance the working relationship between Fire and AMR personnel to the ultimate benefit of the public.

II. DOWNGRADING AND/OR CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

A. The goal of this policy is to insure a standardized approach and utilization of consistent guidelines to determine whether to downgrade and/or cancel a responding paramedic unit.

B. The decision to request a reduction to Code 2 or cancellation of the incoming paramedic unit must be based solely on the patient/scene evaluation, and the request must be justifiable.

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C. To assist the Company Officer in the decision making process, the following Code 3 and Code 2 guidelines are provided:

1. A Code 3 Response Is Mandatory For the Following Situations:

- a) Unconsciousness
- b) Overdose or suspected overdose
- c) Heart attack
- d) Chest pains
- e) Difficulty breathing
- f) Shortness of breath
- g) Not breathing
- h) Stroke
- i) Choking
- j) Broken femur
- k) Traumatic injuries
- l) Injury traffic accident
- m) Gunshot wound
- n) Head injury
- o) Major laceration
- p) Significant bleeding
- q) Shock symptoms
- r) Seizures/convulsions
- s) Severe pain other than chest
- t) Childbirth

2. WHENEVER IN DOUBT, DON'T DOWNGRADE

3. A Code 2 downgrading is justifiable for:

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- a) Simple fracture (except femur)
 - b) Ill person
 - c) Minor laceration
 - d) Slight bleeding
 - e) Slight pain other than chest
 - f) Patient refusing treatment (radio paramedic unit and let them decide whether to cancel or reduce to Code 2)
4. Cancellation is justifiable for:
- a) No injury incidents
 - b) Nothing found/unable to locate
 - c) Fire Department personnel pronounce death prior to ambulance arrival.