

EMS Policy No. 4448, Aircraft Utilization  
 45 Day Comment Period  
 October 27, 2023 to December 11, 2023

POLICY #	SECTION # PAGE #	ORGANIZATION	COMMENT	RESPONSE
4448	III	AMR	<p>Request consideration for simultaneous air ambulance activation for specific MPDS Determinates: 3D, 4D, 7C/D/E, 14D, 15D/E, 17D, 22D, 27D, 29D, 30D where ground transport time to a County-approved trauma center is equal to or greater than 30-minutes, and presenting conditions are not in conflict with Section VII. These MPDS determinates have a high probability of also meeting Major Trauma Triage criteria and simultaneous dispatch of an air ambulance will serve to reduce air ambulance response times and increase clinical capabilities in predominately rural areas.</p> <p>Request consideration to remove the word "Paramedic" from Policy, III and replace with "Responders may request...". Fire Departments are well versed in their geographic regions and should be permitted to order air ambulance resources based on call information and location.</p> <p>Request consideration to include language clarifying that ground ambulances shall not delay transport while waiting for an air ambulance</p>	<p>Simultaneous dispatch for specific determinants and ETA will be considered for the final version of policy.</p> <p>Language will be updated to "EMS responder."</p> <p>Language to ground ambulance not waiting for air is already included in Final Draft.</p>
4448	VII E	REACH 2 Stockton	<p>"VII. Do Not Utilize Ems Aircraft Transport For The Following Patients: E. Patient(s) located within any city limits. The only exception to this shall be if the patient must be transported to a specialty care facility (i.e., trauma center, burn center, etc.) outside the city limits." - By eliminating the exception in the policy, the policy will be more prohibitive for first responders when faced with abnormal circumstances, stating that no patient may be flown from within any city limits. Eliminating this exception will prohibit air transport even in large MCI incidents where patients are assigned to hospitals outside of San Joaquin (i.e. Doctors Modesto, Memorial Modesto, Kaiser South, UC Davis). By eliminating this exception you eliminate air</p>	<p>An exception for air transport during MCI's is already in place.</p>

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			<p>transport as an option for any MCI in Lodi, Stockton, Manteca, Lathrop, or Tracy, which are the exact places large scale MCIs are likely. Not only will this increase the transport time for those patient's assigned to an out of county hospital individually, it will force utilization of more ground ambulances to end up unavailable longer in a time of high utilization and demand, when air transport could be used to decrease transport time and spread the workload. Reach 2 is based at the Stockton Airport, Calstar 12 and PHI Med 4-1 are based out of Modesto and are a 10 minute flight to the Stockton Airport, while Reach 17, Reach 32, and PHI Med 4-2 are all about a 20 minute flight to the Stockton Airport. In a large scale MCI that is 6 more transport units within a 20 minute response that will be prohibited to assist if this exemption is eliminated. - Which cities are incorporated and where their city limits end is not defined in SJCEMSA Policies. - In addition, the amount of patients transported by air from within any city limit is low if not 0 already so the reason for this change seems unnecessary (I don't have the specific data on that, but, anecdotally, I have yet to transport a patient from within a city limits at Reach).</p>	



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