



**TITLE: RESCUE/AUTO EXTRICATION RESPONSE AND  
REIMBURSEMENT TO THE UNPROTECTED AREA**

EMS Policy No. 3204

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose this policy is to describe the process for fire-rescue departments or districts in San Joaquin County to be included on a SJCEMSA maintained list of rescue/auto extrication resources, to be dispatched to the Unprotected Area in San Joaquin County pursuant to EMS Policy No. 3205 Responses to EMS Incidents in the Unprotected Area, and to be reimbursed for rescue/auto extrication services provided.

**AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220 & 1798 et seq.;

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "MPDS" means the Medical Priority Dispatch System.
- B. "SJCEMSA" means San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency.
- C. "Unprotected Area" means is that portion of San Joaquin County bordered by the main San Joaquin River Channel to the north; the San Joaquin River to the east; the Old San Joaquin River and the Grant Line Canal to the south and west; and the Old River and Contra Costa County line to the west, and is unique in San Joaquin County for not having a fire district or other form of public fire service protection to participate in the EMS system.

**POLICY:**

To provide procedures for the identification of fire rescue departments or districts in San Joaquin County that authorize SJCEMSA to request that they provide Rescue-Auto Extrication services to the Unprotected Area in San Joaquin County, the dispatch of such resources, and reimbursement for such services from funds specifically allocated by the Board of Supervisors.

**PROCEDURE:**

- I. Fire-rescue departments or districts in San Joaquin County that want to provide auto-responses to the Unprotected Area pursuant to EMS Policy No. 3205, Responses to EMS Incidents in the Unprotected Area shall submit a completed Unprotected Area Response Authorization form (Exhibit 3204A) to SJCEMSA prior to authorization signed by the department or district Fire Chief or Chair of the Board.

Effective: January 3, 2023  
Supersedes: N/A

Page 1 of 3

Approved: Signature on file  
Medical Director

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- II. Fire-rescue departments and district's submission of the Unprotected Area Response Authorization form (Exhibit 3204A) and responding to a dispatch request for EMS auto responses to the Unprotected Area is voluntary.
- III. SJCEMSA will maintain an up to date list of fire-rescue departments or districts that have submitted the required Unprotected Area Response Authorization form (Exhibit 3204A) and provide it to the San Joaquin County authorized emergency ambulance dispatch center.
- IV. Fire-rescue departments or districts on the SJCEMSA list shall ensure that they have the appropriate resources, equipment, and staffing to respond to the types of fire-rescue/auto extrication incidents identified in the MPDS Protocol 29 Traffic / Transportation Incidents with a Level of Delta (29D - determinants 1-5, all suffixes) and MPDS Protocol 22 Inaccessible Incident / Other Entrapment with a Level of Delta (22D determinants 1-6, all suffixes).
- V. For each incident that a fire-rescue department or district on the SJCEMSA list is dispatched to pursuant to EMS Policy No. 3205, Responses to EMS Incidents in the Unprotected Area, they are eligible for reimbursement by SJCEMSA.
  - A. Reimbursement by SJCEMSA shall be based on the current California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) hourly personnel and apparatus straight time base rates (Exhibit 3204B).
  - B. All hourly rates for reimbursement will be calculated from time of initial dispatch and rounded up to the next full hour after the call was cleared.
  - C. To request reimbursement for services provided pursuant to this Policy, the fire-rescue department or district shall submit a completed Rescue/Auto Extrication Invoice Form (Exhibit 3204C) no later than thirty (30) days after the date of service.
    - 1. SJCESMA shall review and approve or deny each Rescue/Auto Extrication Invoice Form requests no later than fifteen days after receipt.
    - 2. SJCEMSA may request additional supporting documentation as needed prior to any approval or denial. Any such request may extend the time for SJCEMSA's final determination on the Form.

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Page 2 of 3

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- VI. Fire-rescue departments or districts shall not be eligible for reimbursement for self-dispatched assignments.

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Page 3 of 3

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