

# Carlsbad Police Department

## Policy Manual Special Order 2021-06

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*Pursuant to Carlsbad Police Department Policy 204, this Special Order becomes effective July 8, 2021.*

### Updated Policy: Medical Aid and Response 468

#### 468.1 POLICY

It is the policy of the Carlsbad Police Department that all officers and other designated members be trained to provide emergency medical aid and to facilitate an emergency medical response.

#### 468.2 FIRST RESPONDING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever practicable, members should take appropriate steps to provide initial medical aid (e.g., first aid, CPR, use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), or Naloxone) in accordance with their training and current certification levels. This should be done for those in need of immediate care and only when the member can safely do so.

Prior to initiating medical aid, the member should contact the Communications Center and request response by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as the member deems appropriate.

Members should follow universal precautions when providing medical aid, such as wearing gloves and avoiding contact with bodily fluids, consistent with the Communicable Diseases Policy. Members should use a barrier or bag device to perform rescue breathing.

When requesting EMS, the member should provide the Communications Center with information for relay to EMS personnel in order to enable an appropriate response, including:

- (a) The location where EMS is needed.
- (b) The nature of the incident.
- (c) Any known scene hazards.
- (d) Information on the person in need of EMS, such as:
  - 1. Signs and symptoms as observed by the member.
  - 2. Changes in apparent condition.
  - 3. Number of patients, sex, and age, if known.
  - 4. Whether the person is conscious, breathing, and alert, or is believed to have consume drugs or alcohol.

5. Whether the person is showing signs or symptoms of excited delirium or other agitated chaotic behavior.

Members should stabilize the scene whenever practicable while awaiting the arrival of EMS. Members should not direct EMS personnel whether to transport the person for treatment.

### **468.3 TRANSPORTING ILL AND INJURED PERSONS**

Except in extraordinary cases where alternatives are not reasonably available, members should not transport persons who are unconscious, who have serious injuries or who may be seriously ill. EMS personnel should be called to handle patient transportation.

Officers should search any person who is in custody before releasing that person to EMS for transport.

An officer should accompany any person in custody during transport in an ambulance when requested by EMS personnel, when it reasonably appears necessary to provide security, when it is necessary for investigative purposes or when so directed by a supervisor.

Members should not provide emergency escort for medical transport or civilian vehicles.

### **468.4 PERSONS REFUSING EMS CARE**

If a person who is not in custody refuses EMS care or refuses to be transported to a medical facility, an officer shall not force that person to receive care or be transported. However, members may assist EMS personnel when EMS personnel determine the person lacks mental capacity to understand the consequences of refusing medical care or to make an informed decision and the lack of immediate medical attention may result in serious bodily injury or the death of the person.

In cases where mental illness may be a factor, the officer should consider proceeding with a 72-hour treatment and evaluation commitment (5150 commitment) process in accordance with the Mental Illness Commitments Policy.

If an officer believes that a person who is in custody requires EMS care and the person refuses, he/she should encourage the person to receive medical treatment. The officer may also consider contacting a family member to help persuade the person to agree to treatment or who may be able to authorize treatment for the person.

If the person who is in custody still refuses, the officer will require the person to be transported to the nearest medical facility. In such cases, the officer should consult with a supervisor prior to the transport.

Members shall not sign refusal-for-treatment forms or forms accepting financial responsibility for treatment.

#### **468.5 MEDICAL ATTENTION RELATED TO USE OF FORCE**

Specific guidelines for medical attention for injuries sustained from a use of force may be found in the Use of Force, Handcuffing and Restraints, Control Devices and Techniques, and Conducted Energy Device policies.

#### **468.6 AIR AMBULANCE**

Generally, when on-scene, EMS personnel will be responsible for determining whether an air ambulance response should be requested. An air ambulance may be appropriate when there are victims with life-threatening injuries or who require specialized treatment (e.g., gunshot wounds, burns, obstetrical cases), and distance or other known delays will affect the EMS response.

The Field Operations Division Commander should develop guidelines for air ambulance landings or enter into local operating agreements for the use of air ambulances, as applicable. In creating those guidelines, the Department should identify:

- Responsibility and authority for designating a landing zone and determining the size of the landing zone.
- Responsibility for securing the area and maintaining that security once the landing zone is identified.
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for proximity to vertical obstructions and surface composition (e.g., dirt, gravel, pavement, concrete, grass).
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for horizontal clearance from structures, fences, power poles, antennas or roadways.
- Responsibility for notifying the appropriate highway or transportation agencies if a roadway is selected as a landing zone.
- Procedures for ground personnel to communicate with flight personnel during the operation.

One department member at the scene should be designated as the air ambulance communications contact. Headlights, spotlights and flashlights should not be aimed upward at the air ambulance. Members should direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic away from the landing zone.

Members should follow these cautions when near an air ambulance:

- Never approach the aircraft until signaled by the flight crew.
- Always approach the aircraft from the front.
- Avoid the aircraft's tail rotor area.
- Wear eye protection during landing and take-off.

- Do not carry or hold items, such as IV bags, above the head.
- Ensure that no one smokes near the aircraft.

## **468.7 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE**

A member may use an AED only after receiving appropriate training from an approved public safety-first aid and CPR course (22 CCR 100014; 22 CCR 100017; 22 CCR 100018).

### **468.7.1 AED USER RESPONSIBILITY**

Members who are issued AEDs for use in department vehicles should check the AED at the beginning of the shift to ensure it is properly charged and functioning. Any AED that is not functioning properly will be taken out of service and given to the Training Coordinator who is responsible for ensuring appropriate maintenance.

Following use of an AED, the device shall be cleaned and/or decontaminated as required. The electrodes and/or pads will be replaced as recommended by the AED manufacturer.

Any member who uses an AED should contact the Communications Center as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

### **468.7.2 AED REPORTING**

Any member using an AED will complete an incident report detailing its use.

### **468.7.3 AED TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE**

The Training Coordinator should ensure appropriate training and refresher training is provided to members authorized to use an AED. A list of authorized members and training records shall be made available for inspection by the local EMS agency (LEMSA) or EMS authority upon request (22 CCR 100021; 22 CCR 100022; 22 CCR 100029).

The Training Coordinator is responsible for ensuring AED devices are appropriately maintained and will retain records of all maintenance in accordance with the established records retention schedule (22 CCR 100021)

## **468.8 ADMINISTRATION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION**

Trained members may administer opioid overdose medication (Civil Code § 1714.22; Business and Professions Code § 4119.9). Individuals who have been identified as trainers and who have received the required applicable training, may provide naloxone training to employees.

In 2018, Assembly Bill 2256 authorized the administration of naloxone by law enforcement agencies: Officers must complete the training on how to deliver the medication as described in section 468.8.3.

Officers must document usage, monitor their supply and ensure destruction of expired medication as described in section 468.8.1 and 468.8.2.

#### 468.8.1 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members who are qualified to administer opioid overdose medication, such as Naloxone, should handle, store, and administer the medication consistent with their training. Naloxone expires 36 months from the date of manufacturing. Naloxone should be stored between 41 degrees and 104 degrees Fahrenheit. Members should check the medication and associated administration equipment at the beginning of their shift to ensure they are serviceable and not expired. Any expired medication or unserviceable administration equipment should be removed from service and returned to the Professional Standards and Services Division via chain of command.

Officer's issued Naloxone will be responsible for maintaining and storing the product as described by the manufacturer. Naloxone/Narcan shall be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, typically described as stored in a climate-controlled area where access can be controlled. Officers should keep the Naloxone in an easily accessible area convenient for deployment.

In addition to checking the medication at the beginning of the officer's shift, inspections of the trauma kits and Opioid Overdose Medication (Naloxone) should be completed at the quarterly squad inspections. Any member who administers an opioid overdose medication should contact the Communications Center as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

#### 468.8.2 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION REPORTING

Any member administering opioid overdose medication shall detail its use in an appropriate report. Officers shall document the circumstances surrounding the use of naloxone. The report shall include the serial number(s) of the naloxone used as well as identifying information for the assisted person.

Supervisors will be responsible for ensuring that the Records Manager is provided enough information to meet applicable state reporting requirements. The Professional Standards and Services Bureau will conduct a bi-annual audit of naloxone on the deployment and effectiveness of the product.

#### 468.8.3 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION TRAINING

The Professional Standards and Services Bureau will ensure training is provided to members authorized to administer opioid overdose medication. Training should be

coordinated with the Carlsbad Fire Department in concurrence with the local health department and comply with the requirements in 22 CCR 100019 and any applicable POST standards (Civil Code § 1714.22). Once an employee is trained, no refresher training is needed, unless the product's delivery method changes.

#### 468.8.4 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION RECORD MANAGEMENT

Records regarding acquisition and disposition of opioid overdose medications shall be maintained and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule and at a minimum of three years from the date the record was created (Business and Professions Code § 4119.9).

#### 468.9 SICK OR INJURED ARRESTEE

If an arrestee appears ill or injured, or claims illness or injury, he/she should be medically cleared prior to booking. If the officer has reason to believe the arrestee is feigning injury or illness, the officer should contact a supervisor, who will determine whether medical clearance will be obtained prior to booking.

If the jail or detention facility refuses to accept custody of an arrestee based on medical screening, the officer should note the name of the facility person refusing to accept custody and the reason for refusal and should notify a supervisor to determine the appropriate action.

Arrestees who appear to have a serious medical issue should be transported by ambulance. Officers shall not transport an arrestee to a hospital without a supervisor's approval.

Nothing in this section should delay an officer from requesting EMS when an arrestee reasonably appears to be exhibiting symptoms that appear to be life threatening, including breathing problems or an altered level of consciousness, or is claiming an illness or injury that reasonably warrants an EMS response in accordance with the officer's training.

#### 468.10 FIRST AID TRAINING

The Training Coordinator should ensure officers receive initial first aid training within one year of employment and refresher training every two years thereafter (22 CCR 100016; 22 CCR 100022).

M. Williams #12,  
Mickey Williams, Acting Chief of Police

7.8.21  
Date