



Policy No.: EMS 1303
Effective Date: 2/11
Supersedes:
Reviewed: 1/15
Revised:
Administrator: EMS Administrative Director
Signature _____

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

MISCELLANEOUS

REGION IV SCHOOL BUS INCIDENT POLICY*

I. Purpose:

This policy governs the handling of school bus collision/incidents involving the presence of minors. It is meant to be implemented by EMS personnel in conjunction with System/Regional policies including mass casualties. The goal of this policy is to eliminate the transport of uninjured children/students to the hospital and to reduce EMS scene time and utilization of resources.

II. Policy:

A. Each ambulance service provider within the System/Region is required to design and implement a procedure for discharging uninjured children/students to their parents/legal guardians or to local school officials. A statement must be included within the service policy stating that the highest level of care available will be dispatched to the scene for patient evaluation. Discharge procedures will facilitate transferring care of uninjured children/students to the parent/legal guardians or school officials consistent with System and Regional policies. It is recommended that these procedures be developed in coordination with school officials and provider's legal counsel.

III. Procedure:

- A. Determine the category of the collision/incident:
1. CATEGORY 1 bus collision/incident – significant injuries present in one or more children/students or there is a documented mechanism of injury that could reasonably be expected to cause significant injuries.
 2. CATEGORY 2 bus collision/incident – minor injuries only, present in one or more children/students and no documented mechanism of injury that could reasonably be expected to cause significant injuries. Uninjured children/students also present.

3. CATEGORY 3 bus collision/incident – no injuries present in any children/students and no significant mechanism of injury present.
 - B. Determine if implementation of this policy is appropriate. Implement this policy only if the collision/incident is a Category II or III bus collision/incident. Follow multiple victim and disaster preparedness policies for all Categories I bus collisions/incidents, and transport all children/students to the hospital.
 - C. Children/students with disabilities, special needs or communication difficulties will be transported to the hospital for evaluation, when involved in a Category I or Category II collision/incident. For those involved in a Category III, where there is no injury and no significant mechanism of injury present, list children/students on the “School Bus Incident Log.”
 - D. Contact medical control, advise of the existence of a Category II or III bus collision/incident and determine if a scene discharge or uninjured children/students by the emergency department physician in charge of the call is appropriate.
 - E. Injured children/students by exam and/or complaint are treated and transported as deemed necessary and appropriate by EMS personnel or at the request of the child/student.
 - F. Implement provider procedures for contacting school officials or parents/legal guardians to receive custody of the uninjured children/students consistent with System/Regional policies. Procedures may include option of ambulance service provider escorting bus, if operable, back to school of origin or other appropriate destination.
 - G. Medical Control, after consulting with scene personnel, will discharge the uninjured children/students to care of the ambulance service provider, who then will release the children/students, consistent with appropriate System/Regional policies and procedures, to parent/legal guardians or school officials.
 - H. Each uninjured child/student name must be added to the “School Bus Incident Log” and the “Notice of Emergency Medical Services Response to a Minor” form. A copy of the evaluation form must be given to the parent/legal guardian or school official.

***Region-Wide Policy**

REGION IV NOTICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RESPONSE TO A MINOR*

A. Date: _____
From: Service _____
Address _____

Phone # _____
Name of Child: _____

Members of our Emergency Medical Services agency were called to evaluate your son/daughter/ward today as a result of a bus collision/incident.

After responding to the above incident, we evaluated the child. Based on our assessment and statement made by the child, it was determined that he or she did not require emergency care and/or transportation to an emergency department at that time.

Whereas your child is a minor, it is our duty to inform you of this incident so that an informed decision can be made as to whether follow-up evaluation with a physician is desired.

The child was released to a designated school representative who accepted further responsibility for him or her.

If you wish additional information, please contact our agency at the above phone number.

***Region-Wide Policy**