



# SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



## 522.02 MEDICAL TREATMENT 03-12-2025

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for providing medical treatment to individuals.

### POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) to provide emergency medical treatment to individuals under police care or control while ensuring their safety and that of others during treatment.

### PROCEDURE

#### A. GENERAL

1. Officers and community service officers shall:
  - a. Be issued a first aid kit.
  - b. Maintain their assigned first aid kit in good working order.
  - c. As soon as practical, replenish used first aid supplies from:
    - (1) Designated first aid supply officers.
    - (2) Assigned station supplies.
  - d. Contact their supervisor to report any deficiencies with their assigned first aid kit.
  - e. Receive mandated training related to emergency care every two years in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 22, § 100017, which includes:
    - (1) First aid.
    - (2) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).
    - (3) Use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
    - (4) Blood borne pathogens.

#### B. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

1. Officers and community service officers shall provide medical aid (e.g., first aid, use of an AED, or CPR) to individuals in need of immediate care if treatment does not jeopardize the safety of any person.
  - a. Aid is based on an employee's level of training and current certifications.
2. When employees determine medical treatment is necessary, employees shall notify the SPD Communications Center to request emergency medical services (EMS) response.
  - a. If a subject requests medical aid, employees shall request EMS. The failure of a subject to give a reason for requesting medical aid shall not deter an employee from requesting EMS.
  - b. Employees shall provide the following information to the SPD Communications Center to ensure an appropriate EMS response:
    - (1) Location.
    - (2) Nature of the incident, if apparent.
    - (3) Any known scene hazards.
    - (4) Known or apparent information of the person's medical condition, including but not limited to:
      - (a) Observed signs and symptoms.
      - (b) Changes in apparent condition.
      - (c) If known, number of persons, gender, and age.
      - (d) Level and status of consciousness, breathing, and alertness.
      - (e) Signs or symptoms of medical distress; perceived consumption of drugs or alcohol.
3. Employees should take universal precautions when providing medical aid in accordance with General Order 522.05 (Infectious Disease Exposures).
4. If an employee believes a person is suffering from medical distress, they should place the person into a comfortable position (e.g., seated or supine position) and attempt to keep them calm until EMS arrives.
  - a. Behaviors indicative of medical distress include, but are not limited to, irrational or aggressive behavior, incoherent speech, fear, panic, paranoia, unexplained jumping into water, public disrobing, self-inflicted injuries, violence toward or destruction of inanimate objects, extreme pain tolerance, continued struggle despite restraint, dilated pupils, high body temperature, profuse



# SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



sweating, unexplained shivering, inconsistent breathing patterns, seizure, unexpected physical strength, or sudden tranquility.

- b. If the person is restrained, assign a patient safety officer to monitor the person's breathing and consciousness continuously during and after any restraint until the arrival of medical personnel.
5. If an officer or community service officer believes a person is experiencing a medical emergency involving:
  - a. An overdose of opioids, they should administer Narcan in accordance with General Order 522.06 (Administration of Naloxone [Narcan]).
  - b. Cardiac arrest, they shall:
    - (1) When practical and safe, render first aid.
    - (2) Request EMS.
    - (3) Request or utilize an AED in accordance with General Order 522.07 (Automated External Defibrillator [AED]).

## C. MEDICAL AID RELATED TO USE OF FORCE

1. If an employee applies force to any person, they shall act in accordance with General Order 580.02 (Use of Force).

## D. TRANSPORTING ILL AND INJURED PERSONS

1. Unless no reasonable alternatives exist, employees should not transport individuals who are unconscious, have serious injuries, or may be seriously ill. EMS personnel should be called to handle patient transportation.
2. Officers shall search any person in their custody before releasing them to EMS for transport.
3. If it is safe, officers should consider removing handcuffs if advantageous to medical treatment when a person in their custody becomes unconscious or incapacitated.
4. Transportation of prisoners shall be in accordance with General Order 523.02 (Prisoner Security).
5. An officer should accompany any individual during transport in an ambulance when:
  - a. A security concern arises.
  - b. It is necessary for investigative purposes (e.g., to obtain a dying declaration).
  - c. Directed by a supervisor.
6. Officers should not provide emergency (code-3) escort for medical transport or civilian vehicles.

## E. EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORITY

1. A person with the highest-level of medical aid training and current certifications on scene is in charge and responsible for the examination, treatment, and transportation of medical patients.
2. Officers shall inform EMS if a patient is in custody and request the patient be transported to a facility designated to handle prisoners.
3. Employees do not have the authority to order any person to cease performing CPR or interfere with EMS.

## F. RESPONDING TO MEDICAL AID-ONLY CALLS

1. When the SPD Communications Center receives a call from the fire department for assistance with a medical aid-only call, the dispatcher or dispatch supervisor, shall advise the district sergeant or watch commander.
  - a. The district sergeant shall determine if officers will be dispatched and should evaluate the need for a supervisor to respond to the call.
  - b. The fire department shall be considered the lead agency of medical aid-only calls and have primary scene control for the purpose of rendering medical aid.
2. If questions or concerns arise on medical aid-only calls, the on-duty watch commander shall coordinate with the on-duty fire battalion chief to ensure police and fire personnel are working together to handle the call properly.
3. Officers shall not apply force to any subject of a medical aid-only call for service, unless in accordance with:
  - a. General Order 580.02 (Use of Force).
  - b. General Order 522.01 (Handling Mentally Ill Persons).

## G. REFUSAL OF MEDICAL ATTENTION

1. The SPD does not have authority to force a non-arrestable injured or ill person of a sound mental state to receive or submit to medical treatment or to be transported to a medical facility.



## SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



- a. In cases in which mental health disorder may be a factor when rendering medical aid, officers shall evaluate the person for a detention for evaluation and treatment in accordance with Welfare and Institutions § 5150 and General Order 522.01 (Handling Mentally Ill Persons).
2. When officers encounter a non-arrestable injured or ill person involving a refusal to accept medical treatment and EMS has not responded, they shall complete an incident report that documents all of the facts and circumstances.