



# Roll Call Training Bulletin

Produced by: Captain Adam Green, South Command  
Prepared by: Ofc. Rose Cabrera, PSU

Daniel Hahn, Chief of Police  
Volume 78

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUESTS FOR POLICE ASSISTANCE ON MEDICAL AID CALLS**

This bulletin will review our Department procedure for assisting the Fire Department with agitated or uncooperative patients when no crime has been committed. These types of calls for assistance by the Fire Department present some challenges for us as police officers in that we have no legal authority to use force, detain, or handcuff someone in situations that are purely medical in nature.

When the Department's Communications Center receives a call from the Fire Department for assistance on a medical aid-only call, the channel dispatcher or dispatch supervisor will advise the district Sergeant and/or Watch Commander. The patrol supervisor shall determine if a response by the Police Department is appropriate. If the patrol supervisor determines that officers will respond, he/she shall respond with the assigned officer(s) and decide as to whether officers should engage. The Fire Department shall be lead on medical aid calls and have primary scene control for the purpose of rendering medical aid.

### **REFUSAL OF MEDICAL TREATMENT:**

It is important to keep in mind that people have the right to refuse medical treatment and, generally speaking, the Department has no legal authority to force a person to receive or submit to treatment. It is clearly established that police violate the Fourth Amendment when they handcuff people whom they neither suspect of criminal wrongdoing nor believe to be a danger to themselves or others (see *United States v. Davis*, 514 F.3d 596, 607, 610 (6th Cir. 2008)) Police Officers are prohibited from using force against individuals who are not subject to arrest or detention, except to protect the officer, the public or another person.

In situations where Fire personnel only seek to control or restrain a patient in order to render medical aid, the Fire Department shall request additional fire personnel.

### **5150(a) WI DETENTION EVALUATION AND TREATMENT:**

5150 WI states: When a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, is a danger to others, or to himself or herself, or gravely disabled, a peace officer may, upon probable cause, take, or cause to be taken, the person into custody for a period of up to 72 hours for assessment.

### **CONTINUED POLICE ASSISTANCE TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

It is important to recognize that this change pertains only to assisting in patient care of resistive or uncooperative medical patients who are not suspected of a crime or do not pose a danger to others. The Department will continue to respond to requests for assistance or to assure firefighters are safe when providing care. It will be important going forward that Sergeants and Watch Commanders communicate with their peers at the Fire Department and do their best to assure we are assisting the Fire Department whenever possible.

Fire Department Command Staff will assure that these changes are communicated to their line personnel to avoid any confusion or disruption on these types of calls. Additionally, the Fire Department will be working to provide greater detail on their requests for police assistance so that the reason(s) for the need of police assistance are clear. Whenever questions or concerns arise to any



# Roll Call Training Bulletin

*Produced by: Captain Adam Green, South Command  
Prepared by: Ofc. Rose Cabrera, PSU*

*Daniel Hahn, Chief of Police  
Volume 78*

945 calls, the on-duty Watch Commander shall be provided with a cell phone number for the on-duty Battalion Chief. The Watch Commander and Battalion Chief will coordinate to assure that we are working together to handle the call properly.