



*The Pre-Hospital Healthcare Team
for
Saginaw and Tuscola Counties*

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MEMORANDUM #2010-10

From: SVMCA- Office of the Medical Director

Subject: Helicopter Auto-Scramble Criteria

Effective January 3, 2011 Medcom will begin to auto-launch helicopters to the scene based on certain criteria. In the following situations air-medical services will be auto-launched; 1) distance to definitive care, 2) number of patients and/or resources needed 3) the Medical Priority Dispatch System[®] (MPDS[®]) determinant.

Auto-Scramble Criteria:

Distance: ≤ 15 minutes from definitive care generally not considered.

Distance: 16-30 minutes from definitive care, ≥ 3 ambulances requested or ≥ 4 patients predicted or determinants:

Burns: with multiple victims, unconscious, not alert, difficulty speaking, significant facial burns

Inaccessible Incidents: with entrapped, trench or structural collapse, confined space, inaccessible terrain, mudslide/ avalanche, unknown injury and peripheral entrapment

Traffic Incidents: with major incident, high mechanism, hazmat, pinned and not alert

Traumatic Injuries: with unconscious/arrest, not alert, chest/neck with difficulty breathing

Distance: ≥ 30 minutes from definitive care, ≥ 2 ambulances requested or ≥ 3 patients predicted or determinants:

Any determinant listed in the 16-30 minute column or one of the following:

Falls: extreme (≥ 30 ft), unconscious/arrest, not alert, chest/neck with diff breathing, long fall (10-29 ft)

Stab/ Gunshot/ Penetrating trauma: unconscious, not alert, central or multiple wounds, multiple pts

Procedure:

Public safety (police, fire, EMS, dispatch) may request an air-medical service be placed on stand-by, scramble or auto-scramble using the listed criteria.

As there is more than one air-medical service within the MCA, helicopters will be dispatched on a rotational basis.

Critical information should be relayed; scene location, number of patients (weight if possible), and landing zone information.

Cancellation: Helicopter response shall only be cancelled by the following:

An SVMCA EMT or paramedic that is on scene and evaluated the patient(s).

An SVMCA paramedic prior to arrival based on information received from the first responders.