

Red Lights & Siren Guideline

PURPOSE

This policy is to give ambulance personnel criteria for the emergency transport of patients to a medical facility using red lights and siren.

PROCEDURE

The most highly trained medical personnel on scene should assess the need for emergency transportation using both red lights and siren following these guidelines:

1. Airway:
 - A) Inability to establish or maintain a patent airway
 - B) Upper airway stridor
2. Breathing:
 - A) Severe respiratory distress unresponsive to treatment
 - B) Respiratory rate < 10 or > 36/minute
3. Circulation:
 - A) Cardiac arrest
 - B) Systolic blood pressure < 90 in patients > 8 years
 - C) Symptomatic bradycardia or tachycardia that is unresponsive to treatment
 - D) Severe uncontrolled hemorrhage from any source
4. Neurologic:
 - A) GCS < 13, from any cause, unless normal state of consciousness
 - B) Seizure activity unresponsive to treatment
5. Obstetric emergencies (including, but not limited to):
 - A) Prolapsed cord
 - B) Premature labor
 - C) Breech presentation
 - D) Ectopic pregnancy
 - E) Arrested delivery
6. Pediatrics (\leq or 8 years):
 - A) Upper respiratory stridor
 - B) Any patient distressed from injury or illness
7. Trauma:
 - A) Penetrating/blunt trauma to head, neck, or torso
 - B) Two or more suspected proximal long bone fractures
 - C) Major amputations including 2 fingers, 3 toes, or above the wrist or ankle
 - D) Neurovascular compromise of an extremity

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The responding crew has the discretion of using red lights and siren at any time during transport to the hospital if they feel the patient may be in imminent danger.
2. Permission for using red lights and siren comes from State Statutes 340.01 & 346.03 and local Municipal Code.



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