



TRAUMA CENTER SERVICE AREAS

Effective: August 12, 2024
Replaces: January 1, 2020

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the service areas for each trauma center in Santa Clara County.

II. Trauma Center Service Areas

- A. All prospective trauma alert patients, in the 911 System, will be transported to the Trauma Center in accordance with this Schedule and Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policies 602: 911 EMS Patient Destination, 603: Hospital Bypass, and 605: Prehospital Trauma Triage.
- B. The Trauma Center Service Area Catchment Zones applies only to trauma alerts meeting *Moderate Risk Mechanism of Injury or EMS Judgement (Yellow Criteria)* defined in EMS Policy 605.
 1. The **Stanford (SUH) Catchment Zone** extends from the northern border of the County (on the west side of the Bay) extending to CA-9 in Congress Springs, Big Basin and through Saratoga, then continuing to Saratoga Ave and connecting to Newhall St. in the city of Santa Clara until reaching I-880. I-880, 237/E. Calaveras Blvd in the City of Milpitas serves as the upper eastern border.
 2. The **Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (VMC) Catchment Zone** extends from CA-9, Saratoga Ave being the north and western border, then extending to Newhall St. in the city of Santa Clara. I-880, 237/Calaveras Blvd in the city of Milpitas serves as the northeastern border, in which all sections of the county south, fall into this catchment zone.
 3. Incidents that occur on dividing lines (or within a reasonable distance of the dividing lines or significant traffic delays) shall be transported in accordance with the paramedics' discretion.
- C. EMS aircraft providers shall transport trauma alert patients to the closest appropriate designated trauma facility with a Caltrans approved and permitted helipad. The following exceptions apply to both air and ground transportation:
 1. Patients who meet major burn criteria and are not traumatically injured shall continue to be transported to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, in accordance with *Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policy; #605: Prehospital Trauma Triage, #700-P06: Pediatric Burns, and #700-A06: Burns.*



2. When a trauma center is diverting patients, they are to be routed to the next closest trauma center.
- D. The primary service area for the trauma system is the geographic area under the jurisdiction of the Santa Clara County EMS System. Providers of health care outside of this system may transfer patients to one of the County Trauma Centers only after all federal, state and local transfer laws, as well as the requirements of the receiving facility, have been met.

