



PRIVATE AMBULANCE SERVICE EMS PERSONNEL MARKINGS & PROTECTIVE GEAR

Effective: October 5, 2020
Replaces: April 1, 2013
Review: October 5, 2023

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to identify standards for the use of protective gear and to establish a mechanism for rapid identification of various types of private ambulance service EMS personnel on the scene of an emergency.

II. Standard Identification

- A. All EMS personnel (EMT, paramedic, field supervisors and managers) shall wear a uniform that identifies the agency for which they work when attached to EMS calls.
- B. While operating in the field, all personnel attached to a permitted private ambulance or other EMS unit must be identified and be provided with the PPE described herein (ride-a-longs, observers, interns, etc.).
- C. EMS personnel shall have "EMT" or "PARAMEDIC" or CCT NURSE or Flight Nurse displayed on their uniform in a fashion that is easily readable when attached to EMS calls.
- D. All on-duty EMS personnel must carry valid photo identification.
- E. All on-duty EMS personnel must visibly display a Santa Clara County EMS System Identification Badge on their person.

III. Protective Gear

- A. Protective gear shall be required when directed by the Incident Commander, public safety personnel, County, or EMS Field Supervisor in addition to any specific indications identified below. Protective Gear, for the purpose of this Policy, does not include biohazard, universal or communicable disease precautions.
 - 1. All personnel shall adhere to applicable OSHA and CalOSHA requirements related to PPE.

2. All prehospital care personnel working for permitted private ambulances services shall wear the standard protective jacket designated by the County (Policy 309, Schedule B).
3. All prehospital care personnel working for permitted private ambulances services shall wear the standard protective helmet designated by the County (Policy 309, Schedule A).
4. The private ambulance service employer shall provide one pair of work gloves and shatter-resistant clear eyewear per-employee.

IV. Indications for Protective Gear Use

Protective gear (helmet, protective jacket, gloves and eyewear as appropriate) shall be worn when on-scene of the following events:

- A. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Alerts.
- B. Multiple Casualty Incident Plan Activations.
- C. Actual/Suspected Hazardous Materials Events.
- D. Incidents on roadways and freeways.
- E. Working with aircraft (air ambulances, etc.).
- F. Mutual or automatic aid responses.
- G. When the need for clear identification and or recognition exists due to multi-agency response, environmental conditions, and/or general safety.
- H. Anytime deemed necessary by a prehospital provider, public safety official, supervisor, or county.

V. Contraindications for Protective Gear Use

- A. The protective gear requirements of this Policy are designed to provide a minimum amount of protection for those NOT charged with working in hazardous environments. Protective gear requirements have been established to ensure rapid identification of EMS personnel on the scene of an emergency, visibility, and passive protection from the byproducts of rescue operations (sharp edges after extrication, broken glass, etc).
- B. This Policy shall not imply that non-public safety personnel are involved in the process of extrication, working in hazardous environments, and rescue operations. The public safety agency responsible for the jurisdiction shall be responsible for such activities.

- C. This Policy does not address the basic OSHA and Cal OSHA requirements for employees working in emergency medical services. The employer shall determine appropriate uniform selection including footwear, trousers, shirts, etc.
- D. County provided PPE may only be worn or displayed when serving in an official capacity as a representative of the Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services System.

VI. Indications for Ballistic Carrier and Ballistic Helmet Use

- A. County issued ballistic carriers and ballistic helmets provided to the County EOA emergency ambulance provider will be cached with their EMS Field Supervisors and deployed as follows.
- B. Personal ballistic carriers and ballistic helmets may be used in accordance with this policy and Policy 309, Schedule C.
- C. Ballistic carriers and ballistic helmets utilization will be limited to large scale or high-risk events and will not be used for routine responses determined to be safe by law enforcement or another first responder agency.
- D. The ballistic carriers and helmets may be distributed and utilized when responding to or on-scene of the following events:
 - 1. Active shooter.
 - 2. MCIs involving firearms or other types of weapons.
 - 3. Civil unrest / riots.
 - 4. Standbys with large crowds.
 - 5. High risk search warrant standbys.
 - 6. High risk dignitary protection.
 - 7. At the discretion of the EMS Field Supervisor, EMS Duty Chief or on scene Public Safety Incident Commander.

VII. Contraindications for Ballistic Carrier and Helmet Use

- A. The use of ballistic carriers and ballistic helmets outside the parameters identified in Section VI of this policy will constitute a violation of this policy.