

BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order
No.262

Effective Date
03-01-1996

Revised Date
01-01-2001

Subject: Ambulance Service

Reviewed 9/1/16

POLICY

It is the policy of this department to see that emergency medical treatment is provided to every citizen an officer encounters that is in need of such treatment. This includes, but is not limited to, calling for an ambulance if the patient requests or if the officer deems it necessary.

The primary duty of an officer is to preserve life. In certain cases it will be necessary for officers to render first aid. It shall be the policy of this department to do so in keeping with the scope of the individual officer's training; however, the predisposition in all cases is to call for an ambulance.

PROCEDURES

I. Requesting an Ambulance

When an officer encounters someone with a medical problem or someone who is injured, the following factors will determine if an ambulance is to be summoned:

1. If the patient requests an ambulance.
2. If in the officer's opinion one is necessary.
3. If the patient is a juvenile and the parent or responsible adult requests an ambulance.
4. If the patient is a juvenile and no parent or responsible adult can be contacted.
5. If the patient is unconscious.

II. Injuries to Prisoners

- A. If an arrestee is injured prior to or during the arrest process, he shall be given access to medical treatment as soon as possible. If the injuries are severe enough to necessitate transport via ambulance any arrestee must be accompanied by an officer.
- B. The officer accompanying the arrestee will continue to follow departmental procedure relative to prisoner restraints. If the subject still presents a threat and cannot be restrained for a medical reason, another officer shall follow the ambulance.

III. Injuries to Officers

If an officer becomes injured in the line of duty and the injuries are severe enough to warrant an ambulance, the following procedure will be followed:

- A. EMS will be the primary transport for injured officers unless exigent circumstances exist.

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- B. The officer's personal effects including weapon, gun belt, etc. shall be taken by another officer at the scene and given to the officer's supervisor. The supervisor shall also arrange to secure the officer's vehicle. The supervisor will, as soon as possible, proceed to the hospital and determine the officer's condition. He will then notify the shift commander.
- C. The shift commander shall be responsible for complying with departmental procedures relative to line-of-duty death or serious injury, if applicable.
- D. Providing assistance for the ambulance will be at the discretion of the field supervisor. In the case of severe or potentially life threatening injury, the supervisor may wish to have units dispatched to key intersections throughout the route to direct the ambulance through.

IV. Cooperation with Paramedics

- A. Paramedics are to be accorded the same courtesy given to a fellow police officer. Officers are to assist paramedics, but may only perform those functions requested under the guidance of an EMT or paramedic. The following specific duties are discretionary:
 - 1. Driving the ambulance.
 - 2. Riding in the ambulance in non-arrest situations.
 - 3. Witnessing the treatment refusal form.
- B. If an officer experiences any problem with a paramedic, he will file a report on interdepartmental correspondence, directed to the Chief of Police, with copies to the chain of command. The Chief will bring the matter to the attention of the director of the company or agency at which the paramedic is employed.