



SOLANO COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

January 10, 2022

Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative Board of Directors

Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative, Chair
355 Tuolumne Street, Suite 2400
Vallejo, CA 94590

RE: Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance Transport for 9-1-1 Scene Calls

Dear Board of Directors,

In a letter from Solano County Emergency Medical Service Cooperative dated November 8th, 2021, we were informed of a change in countywide transportation policy regarding ambulance transportation. This policy change on the surface appears to be benign but it can have system-wide effects on public safety. As the Solano County Fire Chiefs, we have a few concerns with the policy and its implementation.

Our first concern is that it appears Medic Ambulance and the Solano County Emergency Medical Services Administrator disregarded the existing Master Agreement. The Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative was not included in the decision-making process. As a result, this policy may impact emergency response system-wide.

Our second concern is the implementation and roll out of the policy. The Fire Chiefs were not consulted – nor did we have an opportunity to give any input through the Solano County Emergency Medical Service Cooperative. A policy of this magnitude should be discussed with all stakeholders prior to implementation.

Based on this policy, as written, the fire department-based ALS First Responders are not included in the transport decision making process. We respectfully request a cease-and-desist action until all stakeholders can meet and develop a mutually beneficial agreement. This policy opens questions based on our current model, with each side having a different mission, one concerned with a business model and the other a service model. Any error in transport decisions will be looked at through this lens. Based on these facts it is our position that fire department-based ALS First Responder and ALS Transport Paramedics should be in agreement/concur that a BLS Transport is warranted.

Finally, we believe it is imperative we have an approved policy and procedure on what criteria/assessments must be done to support the decision to transport BLS and how these results are to be documented for quality assurance.

Any decision regarding a policy that effects our communities, such as this policy, should have input from all the stakeholders. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Josh Chadwick
Fire Chief
City of Benicia




Matt Luckenbach
Fire Chief
City of Fairfield



Greg Renucci
Fire Chief
City of Suisun



Kyle Long
Fire Chief
City of Vallejo



Todd McNeal
Fire Chief
City of Dixon



Scott Goodwin
Fire Chief
City of Rio Vista



Kris Concepcion
Fire Chief
City of Vacaville

CC: Benjamin Gammon, EMT-P, Interim Agency Administrator
Solano County Board of Supervisors