



SENECA COUNTY

Emergency Medical Service



Subject: Echo Unit Response Policy

Reference Number:

Effective Date: 10/2008

Review Date: 10/2010

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to define the practice of responding to all calls for service by Seneca County Emergency Medical Services Echo Units

Background:

Echo units are designed to provide ALS assistance and manpower to all calls for service within the Seneca County response area. The Echo Unit program instituted in 2008 to alleviate a manpower shortage and assist the local volunteer squads, are a vital piece of our EMS system. The following policy is designed to provide basic guidelines for the operation and deployment of the Echo unit.

Policy & Procedure

1. The Seneca County Echo Unit shall respond to all calls for service where a Seneca County EMS ambulance is the primary responding ambulance.
2. The response mode shall be "normal" traffic (without lights and sirens) unless indicated to respond emergency traffic by Seneca County Dispatch or the paramedic responding in the Echo unit deems that emergency response is necessary.
3. The Echo Unit paramedic shall check enroute using the SMART Radio on SAFE West. The procedure shall be "Echo One is enroute to <state the address of the call>, normal traffic". If the Echo unit responds emergency traffic due to request or it is deemed necessary, state that you are responding emergency traffic. The ECHO unit will always consider the due regard and safety of others when responding to an emergency in either emergency or normal response mode.
4. The Echo unit paramedic is responding to all emergency calls for service to lend assistance to the local squad district. The Echo unit paramedic is not intended to take over the scene unless a command presence is needed (major incident).
5. Seneca County Echo One shall be the designated call sign on the radio.

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6. The echo unit paramedic shall assist the local squad personnel with patient care, and provide ALS assessment, treatment, and triage if necessary.
7. The incident commander, or squad personnel on scene can cancel the Echo unit response if adequate personnel arrive on scene prior to the Echo unit's arrival. It is essential to ensure that the standard of care is met, so all personnel are advised to await the Echo unit arrival if any question exists as to whether or not the patient(s) require ALS assessment or care. If a paramedic responds with the squad, it will be the paramedic's decision whether or not they wish the Echo unit to continue to the scene.
8. The Echo unit shall be utilized as a training platform for the Seneca County Cadet program, and also for EMT's in training for "ride-along" hours. This will allow for the cadets, and/or students to respond to calls - county wide, and should increase the number of runs available for observation/education purposes.
9. The Echo unit shall monitor the SAFE frequency at all times throughout the shift and be prepared to respond to all calls for service.
10. The Echo Unit paramedic shall be located at the Public Safety Building at the Seneca County fairgrounds. The Echo unit paramedic is encouraged to spend some time each day at Tiffin Mercy Hospital Emergency Department. This will provide the Echo paramedic the opportunity to promote the position and get to know the Emergency Care Center staff. The Echo paramedic is encouraged to assist in the Emergency care center but not get so involved that they cannot leave in a hurry if a call for service is dispatched.

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