



Policy 102: Trauma System Organization and Management

Revision 5/22/18
Effective 8/1/18

I. Purpose

- A. To identify the role and responsibilities of Santa Cruz Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS) as they relate to the trauma care system.

II. Definition

- A. Local EMS agency means the agency, department, or office having primary responsibility for administration of emergency medical services in a county and which is designated pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code.
- B. "Trauma care system" or "trauma system" or "inclusive trauma care system" means a system that is designed to meet the needs of all injured patients. The system shall be defined by the local EMS agency in its trauma care system plan in accordance with California Trauma Care System Regulations.
- C. Red and Yellow criteria refer to major and minor trauma patients as defined in Policy 626 *Trauma Triage*.
- D. Adult patients are 15 years old and greater.
- E. Pediatric patients are 14 years old or less.

III. Policy

- A. As the lead agency for the Santa Cruz County emergency medical services system, Santa Cruz EMS is responsible for planning, implementing, and managing the trauma care system. These responsibilities include:
 - 1. Assessing needs and resource requirements;
 - 2. Developing the system design, including the number of trauma center(s) and determining patient flow patterns;
 - 3. Assigning roles to system participants, including designation of the trauma center(s);
 - 4. Working with the designated trauma centers and other system participants, and with neighboring EMS systems on outreach and mutual aid services;
 - 5. Development of a trauma data system, including a trauma registry at the trauma center, trauma data collection from non-trauma centers, pre-hospital data collection;
 - 6. Monitoring of the system to determine compliance with appropriate state laws and regulations, local EMS agency policies and procedures, and contracts, and taking corrective action as needed;



7. Public information and education;
 8. Evaluating the impact of the system and revising the system design as needed.
- B. To fulfill these responsibilities, Santa Cruz EMS will assign staff to the trauma care system. Other Santa Cruz EMS staff, including the EMS Medical Director, will participate in system monitoring, evaluation and problem-solving activities. Approximately ten percent (10%) of the agency's total staff time is devoted to the trauma care system.
- C. On a day-to-day basis, Santa Cruz EMS will oversee the quality assurance processes required of the trauma system and will investigate problems.