

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

Subject: **Emergency Transportation of the Injured**

Policy #: **405.2**

Effective Since: 8-21-03

Originally Issued As: General Order # 17 of 9-1-77

Revision Effective: 1-1-19

FTO Training Task: # 35

Reference Material: NA

ILEAP Standards Covered: OPR.06.09(b)

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PURPOSE: Because police officers are often the first to arrive at the scene of a medical call, they must employ their first aid training and request additional medical assistance as necessary, to include arranging for the emergency transportation of the injured. It is the purpose of this policy to provide guidelines for requesting such assistance.

POLICY: Protection of human life is the most important function of a police officer. Police officers routinely provide emergency first aid as necessary. It is the policy of the department for officers to summon the services of the Dekalb Fire Department for paramedic response and transportation of the injured to a medical facility. The police department does not provide emergency transportation services to injured persons or persons in need of medical treatment except in extreme exigent circumstances.

DEFINITIONS: none

PROCEDURES:

In order to facilitate the safest and most immediate method of transportation of injured persons, the following procedure should be followed:

- A. Determine the extent of injuries and advise dispatch of such.
- B. Request paramedic response, if not already en route:
 1. If the victim requests an ambulance.
 2. If obvious or reported injuries need immediate medical attention beyond basic first aid treatment.
 3. If the person is unconscious, incapacitated, or incapable of making an intelligent decision.
 4. If the person has been struck in the head, which has caused prolonged dizziness/faintness or being "blackout" for any period of time.
 5. If the person is suicidal; also see Policy 405.3, Mentally Ill and Suicidal Persons.
- C. Summon a Fire Department ambulance any time the above items are applicable.
- D. Provide pertinent information to the paramedics via police dispatch.
- E. Provide emergency first aid as needed.
- F. Make the injured persons as comfortable as possible.
- G. Upon arrival of the ambulance, assist paramedics as needed. See Policy 405.1, Assisting in Emergency Medical Calls.
- H. **Emergency transportation of the injured will always be performed by ambulance**, since paramedics are trained in providing medical assistance and ambulances contain equipment that provide medical support while en route to a medical facility.
 1. Officers should not transport injured persons or persons requiring medical treatment.
 2. Any exceptions to this policy must be in extreme exigent circumstances, with the permission of a supervisor, and ideally, authorization by the medical facility to provide transport.
 3. **Extreme exigent circumstances must include a situation where arrival at the medical facility would be considerably faster than the response of an ambulance to the scene and the victim's life is in immediate danger.**
- I. **Providing escorts of civilian vehicles in emergency medical situations:** occasionally officers encounter a civilian vehicle that is attempting an expedited transport to a medical facility. Officers should follow these procedures:

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1. In no case shall an injured or medically-impaired driver be allowed to continue driving.
2. In most cases, summon an ambulance to the scene if immediate medical attention is necessary.
3. If the medical situation is not an emergency and ambulance transport is not necessary, advise the driver to obey traffic laws in continuing to the medical facility.
4. If the motorist requests an emergency police escort, permission should be obtained by the shift supervisor.
5. **Officers should only perform emergency escort to a medical facility in extreme exigent circumstances when arrival at the medical facility would be considerably faster than the response of an ambulance to the scene and the victim's life is in immediate danger.**
6. If performing an emergency medical escort:
 - a. Use lights and siren if disregarding the speed limit or traffic control devices.
 - b. Instruct the driver to closely follow the squad car.
 - c. Use extra care to ensure a safe escort.

[ILEAP OPR.06.09(b)]

J. Transportation From Medical Facilities

1. Unless there is an exigent circumstance, the department will not provide rides for people leaving the hospital or other medical facility.
2. If the hospital or medical facility has exhausted all efforts to find a patient a ride home and they call to request an escort, the supervisor may use discretion and consider providing an escort.
3. Special consideration can be made for crime victims, and in other situations where the person has been involved in a police investigation.
4. The supervisor should review what efforts the medical facility has made to find someone a ride before approving the escort.

Policy originally issued 8-21-03; this revision becomes effective on 1-1-19 by authority of the Chief of Police.

NOTE: This policy and procedure summarizes the department's position on this specific matter. This policy is for general direction and guidance primarily designed for use by the department's members. This policy is for internal use only and does not create or enlarge an officer's liability in any way. This policy shall not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of an internal departmental complaint and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.