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*San Diego County*

**SHERIFF**

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## TRAINING BULLETIN

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### INITIATING A 911 RESPONSE

During a medical emergency, prompt activation of the 911 system can be crucial to a successful outcome. Detention Policy and Procedure Section M.6 states, "Any life-threatening medical emergency shall trigger a 911 request for a paramedic emergency response team, sworn and health staff shall initiate an emergency response and basic lifesaving measures until relieved by the paramedic emergency response team."

Facility staff is expected to recognize, respond, report, and take appropriate action in addressing the emergency medical needs of incarcerated persons, staff members, and/or visitors within detention facilities. It is expected that emergency medical care shall be provided with **EFFICIENCY** and **SPEED** without compromising security.

If the patient's condition is believed to be life-threatening, **ALL SWORN STAFF, regardless of professional discipline or job title, including ANY DEPARTMENT or CONTRACTED HEALTH STAFF MEMBER, has the authority to activate 911** and shall do so without delay. Contacting 911 should be the priority and does not require authorization from a supervisor. Without leaving the victim unattended, staff shall immediately request the activation of emergency medical services (911) via radio, providing the location, victim status (e.g., breathing, pulse), and nature of any injury if known. Staff is expected to provide basic life support (BLS) and/or first aid care until paramedics arrive, initiate treatment, and assume care.

Some examples of medical emergencies that would require immediate transportation to the closest emergency department (ED) include:

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Injuries resulting in possible head/neck/spine damage.
- Injuries with extensive amounts of blood loss
- Injuries with uncontrollable bleeding
- Naloxone administration
- Severe assaults that result in:
  - loss of consciousness
  - possible broken bones
  - requiring extensive suturing
- Seizures (first-time or seizures that continue for a prolonged period)
- Stroke symptoms

**For more information, please refer to Sheriff's Department Detentions Services Bureau Police and Procedure Manual sections M.1.Access to Care, M.5 Medical Emergencies and M.6 Life-Threatening Emergencies: Code Blue**

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This Training Bulletin was prepared by the Detention In-Service Training Unit. If you have expertise in a particular subject and would like to write a training bulletin, please contact the Detention In Service Training unit at [REDACTED]