



San Diego County Sheriff

Training Bulletin

William D. Gore, Sheriff

April 2017



Rendering First-Aid

The first person at the scene of an emergency situation is often a police officer / deputy sheriff. When the situation involves a medical emergency, peace officers assume the role of First Responder.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

As First Responders, peace officers should assume the primary responsibility for:

- Ensuring officer safety as well as the safety of ill or injured individuals and the public
- Evaluating the emergency situation
- Taking necessary enforcement actions related to the incident
- Initiating actions regarding the well-being and care of ill or injured persons including suspects

ENROUTE TO THE SCENE

The primary objective of all peace officers responding to any emergency call should be to get to the location as *quickly and safely as possible*.

SCENE SIZE UP

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At the scene, peace officers should evaluate the nature of the incident and communicate critical information to dispatch and other involved units as soon as possible.

- Location - exact address, conditions present at scene, potential hazards related to the incident
- Type of emergency- Conditions relates to the actual emergency- vehicle collision, individual with severe chest pain, etc.
- Nature of ill/injured- Number of victims, age of victims, conscious vs. unconscious, appearance of injury
- Need for additional resources- Fire Department, additional LE units, public utility services, other specialty units such as HAZMAT, etc.
- Urgent enforcement actions required – Protection of victim from aggressor, control of suspect(s) and/or bystanders, immediate protection of a crime scene

SAFETY

As a deputy sheriff, we are each responsible for taking action to protect our own safety as well as the safety of other EMS personnel, the ill or injured, the public and to control the scene. When determining the appropriate safety precautions to take, deputies should consider possible dangers from:

- Exposure to biological hazards (e.g. body fluids such as blood, saliva, etc.)
- Armed suspects, angry bystanders, etc.
- Unsafe scene conditions (e.g. unstable buildings, nearby vehicle traffic, etc.)
- Environmental hazards (e.g. fire, exposure to dangerous chemicals, chance of explosion, etc.)

- Animals (e.g. pets, wild animals)

ASSESSMENT AND CARE OF VICTIM

Based on this initial assessment, deputies may be required to provide basic care for the victim. Such care may include providing basic emergency medical services until relieved of the responsibility by other personnel with equal or higher levels of training, paramedics/medical staff, or you are physically unable to continue treatment.

Per Sheriff's Policy and Procedure section 6.33, our primary responsibility as a first responder to a major crime is to:

- Ensure human safety:
 - Call for medical aid, if necessary.
 - Administer first aid.
 - Prevent risk to emergency responders and the public.
- Apprehend the suspect.
- Separate shooters in shooting incidents.
- Establish a perimeter around the entire crime scene.
- Preserve physical evidence.
- Identify all persons who entered the crime scene for later entry on an official witness list.
- Make necessary notifications.
- Identify and interview victims and witnesses.
- Identify suspects.
- Remain alert for spontaneous statements made by suspects.
- Prepare the official reports.

Remember, if you are involved in a critical incident such as a vehicle pursuit or officer involved shooting, it is your responsibility to initiate EMS as soon as **safely** possible. Depending on the circumstances surrounding the incident, it may not be safe to physically render first-aid, however, EMS can be activated by simply asking dispatch to have the fire department respond.

Preservation of human life is paramount.

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