

Salt River Fire Department EMS Policies and Procedures

Salt River Fire/Police Interdepartment Guideline For Body Substance Samples



05/2003

402.04

PURPOSE

The following guideline is intended to identify primary responsibilities of Salt River Fire and Police departments at motor vehicle accident or crime scenes. Furthermore, the guideline is intended to set forth a mutually agreed upon procedure when separate priority duties overlap.

GENERAL STATEMENTS

A primary responsibility of the fire department is to assess, treat, and coordinate transportation of patients involved in motor vehicle accidents. When critically injured patients are involved, the goal of emergency medical service providers is to perform life-saving care as quickly and safely as possible.

The police department is responsible for performing criminal investigations when an individual is suspected of a felony crime. The investigation may require blood, urine, or other body fluid collection.

COOPERATIVE GUIDELINE

The following guideline was developed to ensure that both departments fulfill their respective primary duties while recognizing each has separate priorities.

- A police officer will make contact with the fire department Company Officer or Fire Command to advise that a criminal investigation is under way.
- The Company Officer or Fire Command will provide the police officer with a verbal report indicating the patient's level of injury, severity, and medical care plan.
- If the severity of the patients injuries are minor and/or a minor delay of transport will not further complicate patient outcome, a police department phlebotomist may be requested and given the opportunity to obtain blood, urine, or other body fluid samples.
- The police department phlebotomist will report to the Company Officer before obtaining samples. Blood samples will be obtained from sites other

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than those used by fire department members.

- In the event that a sample of blood, urine or any other bodily substances is taken from a person by a Salt River Fire Department member, a portion of the sample sufficient for analysis shall be provided if requested by a law enforcement officer in accordance with (ARS 28-692.J.)

DECLARATIONS

- The Salt River Fire Department obtains it's medical direction from contract Base Station Hospital Medical Directors.
- Police Department phlebotomists receive their medical direction from a separate Medical Director.
- State and federal laws allow bodily fluid samples to be obtained without patient consent in some circumstances.
- Fire department members will not advise patients on legal issues or interfere with sample gathering when the above guideline criteria are met.
- Salt River Fire Department paramedics do not possess the equipment to draw blood samples.
- When Police Department personnel encounter a patient in need of medical care they will provide initial first-aid procedures and immediately request Fire Department emergency medical assistance through Alarm.