

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

OPERATING GUIDELINES – Patient ID/Valuables



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Salt River
Fire Department

PURPOSE

The following guideline is intended to provide a consistent process for patient identification and transportation of valuables.

GENERAL STATEMENTS

During the scope of medical care / treatment of a patient the responding fire crew may find it necessary to obtain a patient's identification for proper medical assessment and treatment when bystanders, caregivers, and family members cannot provide accurate information.

PROCEDURE

In the event that the responding fire crew requires patient identification they shall follow the following guidelines:

- The patient's modesty and right to privacy shall be strictly observed
- Clothing and personal property shall not be removed from the patient unless it interferes with proper care or treatment.
- If the need arises for personnel to remove a wallet or enter a purse this shall be performed by the patient, family members, law enforcement, and finally if required by fire personnel.
- If fire personnel are required to obtain identification the company officer shall perform this function, if available, and have another fire personnel witness this action and it shall be documented on the run report and a witness signature.
- All valuables removed from the patient shall be turned over to a family member, the police, or the hospital staff and documented on the run report. It is important to be descriptive of the items.