



**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

Fred A. Drew
Director

Robert Barnes, M.D.
Medical Director

1400 "H" Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301 Phone: (661) 861-3200 Fax: (661) 322-8453 TTY Relay (800) 735-2929

February 17, 2000

TO: Distribution – CHP Dispatch with Kern County Jurisdiction

FROM: Fred Drew, Director

SUBJECT: EMS Response to Vehicle Accidents with “Unknown Details” in Rural Areas of Kern County

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your assistance in regard to generating an EMS response to vehicle accidents with unknown details located in rural areas of Kern County. The Department acknowledges that statistically most vehicle accidents with unknown details are non-injury. However, there have been cases where an EMS response has not been initiated to a vehicle accident with unknown details in rural areas and upon arrival by CHP there were confirmed injuries. There can be significant time delays in responding to the incident to assess if injuries are present and getting an EMS resource on-scene after EMS response is initiated.

The Kern County EMS Dispatch Quality Improvement Group conducted a survey to determine what procedures were used by CHP dispatch for vehicle accidents in Kern County with unknown details. The survey replies we received revealed significant variation in procedures. It was acknowledged by the EMS Dispatch QI Group that all vehicle accidents with unknown details do not warrant an EMS response. For example, an incident located on a low speed surface street with unknown details and short response time for law enforcement does not warrant EMS response. Another example is a high speed roadway with snow resulting in very low speed vehicle collisions due to weather conditions. Although there are concerns with generating unnecessary EMS responses, the EMS Dispatch QI Group recommended issuing the following as a minimum standard:

An EMS response should be sent to all vehicle accidents with unknown details when high speed is suspected, reported vehicle roll-overs with unknown injury, or vehicle accidents with unknown details in Kern County where CHP response time for on-scene assessment will exceed fifteen (15) minutes.

The caller should be transferred to ECC when possible for EMS and Fire Dispatch by EMD Protocol. If caller transfer is not possible, refer incident type, incident location, call back number, number of victims, status of consciousness, status of breathing which enables ECC to dispatch a prioritized response in accordance with EMD Protocol.

February 17, 2000

Page 2

I hope this recommended minimum standard is helpful. Please call Russ Blind of the Department's staff at (661) 861-3200 or E-Mail BlindR@co.kern.ca.us for any questions.

Distribution:

California Highway Patrol – Bakersfield Dispatch

California Highway Patrol – Bishop Dispatch

California Highway Patrol – Los Angeles Dispatch

RB:COMM:CHP EMS Dispatch 02-2000



**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

**Fred A. Drew
Director**

**Robert Barnes, M.D.
Medical Director**

1400 "H" Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301 Phone: (661) 861-3200 Fax: (661) 322-8453 TTY Relay (800) 735-2929

February 17, 2000

TO: Each Kern County EMD Provider

**FROM: Russ Blind
Senior EMS Coordinator**

SUBJECT: EMD Activity Data & Case Reviews

The purpose of this memorandum is to issue a directive to Kern County EMD Providers in regard to requirements to report EMD activity data and EMD case reviews to the Department contained in Kern County EMS Department – EMS Dispatch Policies and Procedures.

Kern County EMD Providers that actively use AQUA software provided by Medical Priority Consultants for EMD case reviews and activity oversight may submit AQUA reports to the Department instead of completing the EMD Activity Report currently contained in Kern County EMS Department – EMS Dispatch Policies and Procedures.

Please call the Department at (661) 861-3200 or E-Mail BlindR@co.kern.ca.us for any questions.

Distribution:

**Walt Moulton, ECC
Patsy Carpenter, Delano Ambulance Service
Darlene Dennison, Hall Ambulance Service**

RB:COMM:EMD Case Data 02-2000