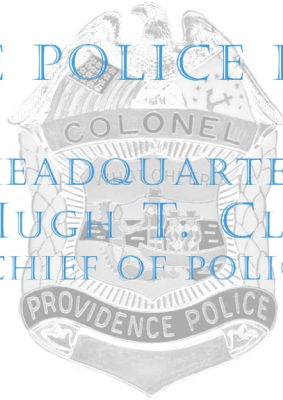


# PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS  
COLONEL HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE



<b>TYPE OF ORDER</b>	<b>NUMBER/SERIES</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Memorandum	#3 Series 2013	1/6/2013	1/6/2013
<b>SUBJECT TITLE</b>		<b>PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES</b>	
PFD Emergency Medical Dispatch Policy Changes		N/A	
<b>REFERENCE</b>		<b>RE-EVALUATION DATE</b>	
		2/28/2013	
<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>		<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	
Law Enforcement Operations		All Sworn Personnel	

The Providence Fire Department (PFD) has recently amended their Emergency Medical Dispatch Policy. The purpose of these amendments is to provide the citizens of Providence with the appropriate level of emergency medical services required to address their needs by evaluating and prioritizing calls for medical service responses in both emergency and non-emergency situations.

As part of the new policy, calls for non-emergency medical services will be triaged and then prioritized, which may result in delayed response times. Additionally, some medical responses may be handled by private ambulance companies at the discretion of the PFD dispatcher. Therefore, it is of paramount importance for officers to accurately articulate detailed information regarding the condition of subjects requiring or requesting medical services to the Providence Police Department (PPD) dispatcher.

This is especially pertinent to officers when they are dealing with intoxicated persons within the context of a non-criminal matter. When officers come into contact with such intoxicated persons who are conscious and who neither appear nor claim to require emergency medical services, the following procedure shall be followed:

1. Officers may contact the PPD dispatcher and specifically request a medical services transport for a non-emergency situation.
2. The PPD dispatcher shall then communicate this request to the PFD dispatcher.
3. The PFD dispatcher shall dispatch an EMS apparatus.

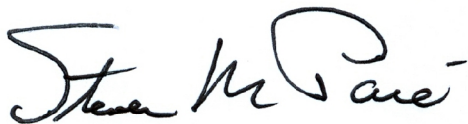
- a. A basic life support vehicle (i.e., a rescue apparatus) shall be dispatched, if one is available.
  - b. Alternatively, a private ambulance company may be called upon to transport the individual.
4. Officers who are operating marked patrol vehicles equipped with a security screen may bypass Steps 1 through 3 above and instead may elect to secure such intoxicated persons in the rear passenger compartment of the vehicle and transport them directly to RI Hospital for detoxification.
- a. Exercising this option shall only be allowable whenever doing so is feasible and can be accomplished with due regard for the safety of all parties involved.
  - b. Officers shall be bound by all applicable Department directives, including General Order 330.01, "Vehicular Operations", and General Order 330.02, "Vehicular Pursuit Policy".

In all other instances involving intoxicated persons, regardless of whether or not criminal or non-criminal circumstances exist, officers must request an emergency medical services (EMS) transport, and depending upon the availability of PFD rescue apparatus, a private ambulance company may be dispatched. Notwithstanding the type of EMS apparatus dispatched, a rapid response will be designated by the PFD in these instances. If the response is delayed, officers should contact the PPD dispatcher and request a status report, and when deemed necessary, an upgrade in the response priority of the EMS apparatus should be made.

Generally, in all instances when a person requiring medical services is located in a public place and safety issues exist for the officer(s), the victim(s), and/or the general public, officers should articulate these facts to the PPD dispatcher and request an immediate EMS response.

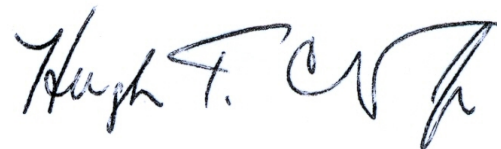
The PFD is committed to fostering ongoing dialogue concerning these policy amendments with the PPD, and will be conducting quarterly policy reviews and updates beginning January 2013.

**APPROVED:**



STEVEN M. PARÉ  
COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**APPROVED:**



HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.  
COLONEL  
CHIEF OF POLICE