



# General Order

## Department of Fire & EMS

G.O. #: 12-3-25

**Subject: Upgrade of Mutual Aid**

**Date: December 5, 2025**

**Authority: Assistant Chief Eric Zaney (EZ)**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish departmental expectations and operational guidance for EMS responses into York County and Adams County, Pennsylvania. This directive ensures alignment with MIEMSS COMAR Title 30 for Maryland-licensed providers operating out of state, as well as Pennsylvania Department of Health EMS Act requirements regarding the functioning of out-of-state EMS agencies. This order promotes continuity of patient care, appropriate transport decisions, and interagency cooperation.

### **II. PROCEDURE**

#### **A. Patient Loaded in BLS Unit Prior to ALS Arrival**

1. When a Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS ALS ambulance arrives at a scene and a Pennsylvania BLS ambulance has already loaded the patient:
  - a. The ALS provider shall upgrade the BLS ambulance by boarding that unit and delivering ALS-level care during transport.
  - b. ALS providers must move any required ALS equipment into the BLS ambulance prior to departure, recognizing that out-of-state BLS units may not carry ALS supplies.
  - c. The Carroll County ALS transport unit will follow the BLS ambulance to the receiving facility and return to service once patient care is transferred. This will ensure that any additional equipment or supplies needed will be readily available.

#### **B. Patient Not Yet Loaded Upon Arrival**

2. If both a Pennsylvania BLS unit and a Carroll County ALS unit arrive, and the patient is not yet loaded:
  - a. The patient shall be transported in the ambulance matching the highest level of required care.

- b. Patients requiring ALS assessment or interventions shall be transported in the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS ALS unit.
  - i. This ensures access to a full complement of ALS equipment, secure storage for controlled substances, and timely return of the BLS unit to service.

### **C. Professional Conduct & Conflict Resolution**

- 1. Personnel shall remain professional, respectful, and cooperative with all partner agencies.
- 2. Any disagreement regarding transport decisions must be addressed calmly and with the patient's best interest as the guiding priority.
- 3. When needed, personnel shall request the response of an EMS Supervisor for immediate on-scene support.
- 4. All concerns or operational issues shall be reported through the established chain of command following the incident.

## **III. RELATED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS**

### **A. Regulatory References**

- 1. MIEMSS COMAR Title 30 – Maryland EMS provider operational and scope-of-practice requirements.
- 2. Pennsylvania Act 37 (2009) – EMS System Act outlining licensing, exemptions, staffing, and operational requirements for EMS agencies and personnel in the Commonwealth.
  - a. **Act 37 §8129(r)** – Exemptions permitting out-of-state EMS agencies to operate in Pennsylvania when:
  - b. A Pennsylvania EMS agency cannot respond within a reasonable time or lacks adequate resources.
  - c. The out-of-state EMS agency's operations in PA are limited to transporting patients into the Commonwealth.
- 3. MIEMSS COMAR Title 30 – Maryland EMS provider operational and scope-of-practice requirements.
- 4. Pennsylvania Department of Health EMS Act – Guidance for out-of-state EMS agencies providing mutual aid services.