Central DuPage Emergency Medical Services System

Use of Lights and Siren

INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL: 9/99	EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR: _____
REVIEW & APPROVAL: _____	EMSS COORDINATOR: _____
REVISION & APPROVAL: 2/09	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of EMS is to provide excellent, timely patient care. There are circumstances, therefore, where it is necessary to exceed posted speed limits, proceed through red lights, or go left of center with care in order to get a patient to an emergency facility rapidly enough to ensure a good outcome. The EMT must be sure that intersections and roadways are free of oncoming traffic before safely proceeding.

Safety, not speed, is the first priority when transporting patients from the scene of an incident to the hospital. The Illinois Motor Code, 1994 Edition, states that drivers of ambulances are allowed to exceed the speed limit so long as the driver does not endanger life or property. Good judgment on the part of all personnel should govern the use of lights, sirens and speed in excess of the posted limit.

The recommendations are as follows:

A. Except for extenuating circumstances, Fire Department personnel shall transport Advanced Life Support (ALS) patients using red lights. Good judgment on the part of the vehicle operator should govern the use of the siren.

B. Fire Department personnel may transport Basic Life Support (BLS) patients <u>without</u> the use of red lights and siren. Circumstances may require lights and siren transport of BLS patient. The paramedics will determine the necessity on a case by case basis.

C. System Providers may develop their own guidelines.

D. If at any time a Basic Life Support (BLS) patient becomes an Advanced Life Support (ALS) patient, the patient will be transported as defined in Section A of this policy.

E. This pertains only to the transport of patients from the scene of an emergency to the hospital.