



HOSPITAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

I. AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1798. (a)

II. APPLICATION:

To establish a formal mechanism for providing rapid advanced emergency medical care at the scene of an emergency in which a higher level of on-scene emergency medical expertise, physician field response, is requested by the on-scene emergency medical services (EMS) provider.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT): Organized group of health care providers from an Orange County Emergency Medical Services designated Trauma Center, with Orange County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency approval as a HERT provider, who are available 24 hours/day to respond and provide a higher level of on-scene surgical and medical expertise.

Incident Commander: Designated officer with overall responsibility for the management of the incident.

Physician Field Response: Is a situation in which a higher level of on-scene emergency medical or surgical expertise is warranted due to the nature of the emergency and requested by the on-scene prehospital care provider.

Qualified Specialist: A physician licensed in the State of California who is Board Certified or Board Eligible in the corresponding specialty by American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

IV. POLICY:

A. Purpose of the HERT

1. A HERT is utilized in a situation where additional medical or surgical expertise is needed on scene.
2. This includes, but is not limited to, the following situations:
 - a) A life-saving procedure, such as an amputation, is required due to the inability to extricate a patient by any other means.
 - b) Prolonged entrapment of a patient requiring extended scene care.
 - c) Need for assistance with analgesia, sedation, and difficult airway management.
 - d) A mass casualty incident with need for field triage of a large number of patients.

B. Composition of Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT)

1. The composition of the HERT shall be qualified specialist(s) approved by training and orientation to the Orange County Emergency Medical Services System, communication systems, on-scene safety, aviation safety and care of the patient in the aviation environment.
2. The HERT shall identify a Physician Team Leader who:
 - a) Is responsible for organizing, supervising and accompanying members of the team to a scene where a physician field response has been requested.
 - b) Shall be familiar with base hospital operations and OCEMS policies procedures and protocols.
 - c) Is responsible for retrieving the life-saving equipment and determining if augmentation is required based on the magnitude and nature of the incident.
 - d) Will determine the ultimate size and composition of the team based upon the



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magnitude and nature of the incident.

- e) Will report to, and be under the authority of, the IC or their designee. Other members of the team will be directed by the Physician Team Leader.

NOTE: The standard life-saving equipment and PPE referenced above shall be predetermined, preassembled and readily available. Based upon the magnitude and nature of the incident, the standard life-saving equipment and PPE may require augmentation.

C. Activation of the HERT:

1. The anticipated duration of the incident should be considered in determining the need for a HERT. Before requesting a HERT, the IC should take into account that it may be a minimum of thirty (30) minutes before a team can be on scene.
2. The IC shall contact the appropriate base hospital, provide pertinent information and request the HERT.
3. The Base Hospital shall contact the approved HERT provider regarding the request. The Physician Team Leader will organize the team and equipment in accordance with the HERT provider's internal policy, and the magnitude and nature of the incident.
4. The Physician Team Leader shall inform the Base Hospital once the team has been assembled and indicate the number of team members.
5. The Base Hospital will notify the IC of the estimated time of arrival and mode of transportation of the HERT.

D. Transportation of a HERT

1. When either ground or air transportation is indicated, the HERT Team Leader will arrange emergency response transportation for the HERT.
2. Authorized HERT air transport providers are air transport providers who:
 - a) Are committed to transport HERT members on a 24/7 basis.
 - b) Conduct biannual flight safety training with HERT members.
 - c) Conduct ongoing EMS system updates and training.
 - d) Allocate medical flight crew members to escort HERT members to the scene.
 - e) Follow US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Standards Advisory Circular Number 00-1.1A Public Aircraft Operations.
 - f) Maintain accreditation from Public Safety Aviation Accreditation Commission (PSAAC) or Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS).
3. Consider use of larger ground (CCT or bariatric) or air units for transport of patient and the HERT to a receiving hospital.
4. Upon the conclusion of the incident, the HERT will work with the IC to contact to arrange transportation of the team back to the originating facility, if needed.

E. Responsibilities of HERT on Scene

1. Upon arrival of the HERT, the Physician Team Leader will report directly to the IC. Access to the emergency medical scene will be at the discretion of the IC. The HERT members will have the recommended safety gear:
2. PPE shall include the following:
 - a) Safety Goggles
 - b) Leather Gloves
 - c) Royal blue helmet with HERT labeled on both sides (e.g., Bullard ® Advent ®)
 - d) Nomex Flight Suit with HERT indicated by shoulder sleeve insignia
 - e) DOT safety vests
 - f) Flight Helmet (for air transport)
 - g) Flight Gloves (for air transport)
 - h) Safety boot with steel toe.

