

EMS ASSESSMENT

PURPOSE

During EMS responses, personnel encounter many different situations involving a wide variety of people and circumstances. During these interactions, the level of service and/or intervention required can vary widely. As a result, the following guideline is intended to assist responders in determining an individual's need for an EMS medical assessment.

BACKGROUND

Many agencies that provide EMS services also provide a wide variety of Fire, Rescue, and other Hazard mitigation services. As a result, Persons encountered during emergency responses typically fall into two primary service categories: Those who require EMS medical assessment and services (often referred to as "Patients") and those who require Fire, Rescue, or other Hazard mitigation.

DEFINITIONS

- 1) ***EMS Assessment*** - An assessment performed by Emergency Medical Services personnel including but not limited to the acquisition of a chief complaint, history of the present illness or injury, medical history, and performance of a physical exam in order to arrive at an assessment of potential injuries or cause of illness. An EMS assessment is necessary in order to adequately determine an appropriate plan of action for the "patient" involved.
- 2) ***Patients*** – Individual(s) who exhibit one or more of the following:
 - ❑ Is involved in a situation involving a sufficient mechanism to cause injury
 - ❑ Appears ill, injured, or the EMS provider suspects an alteration of the individual's baseline level of consciousness
 - ❑ The individual or "guardian" requests an evaluation/assessment.
 - ❑ Individuals who are declared deceased in the out of hospital setting.

ACTION

Providers should initiate contact with persons immediately in and around an emergency response in order to determine the number of persons involved, mechanism, contributing or co-morbid factors, and etc. Utilizing the above criteria, responders will identify individuals who require the completion of an EMS assessment ("Patients") and care should be initiated per the clinical guidelines. If it is determined that "patients" are not present, then personnel would not be required to complete an EMS assessment.

DOCUMENTATION

Assessment and treatment of any "patient" will be documented in accordance with individual departmental documentation requirements on the Pre-Hospital Care Report.

In those situations where no PHCR is required, documentation consistent with each department's policies shall be completed (e.g., dispatch report/form 10). Documentation for the response should be completed indicating that none of the criteria noted above were present. Crews should also indicate the circumstances which lead to the activation of EMS, if known.