DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **TRAUMA PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION** REFERENCE NO. 908

PURPOSE: To describe the role of the trauma center in public information and injury prevention.

AUTHORITY: California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 7, Section 100256

PRINCIPLES:

1. Injuries are the leading cause of death for those between the ages of 1 and 44, and the fourth leading cause of death for the population as a whole.

2. "Injury" has been adopted by the public health community to replace the term "accident" when describing both fatal and nonfatal events to illustrate that injuries are predictable and preventable.

3. Injury prevention and control requires the combined efforts of experts and professionals in many fields, including health, education, transportation, law, engineering, architecture, and safety sciences.

4. There are regional differences in injury mortality rates in Los Angeles County. By identifying specific trauma related problems in a community and instituting appropriate prevention efforts, significant reduction in injuries can be achieved.

5. As competition increases for limited healthcare dollars, trauma prevention and control programs assume a greater role in the reduction of these costs by decreasing the actual number of trauma incidents.

POLICY:

I. Each designated trauma center, in conjunction with the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, shall:

   A. Participate in and/or develop outreach activities.

   B. Be an information resource.

   C. Collaborate with existing national, regional, and state injury prevention programs.

   D. Ensure the collection of accurate trauma system data, including E-coding in hospital discharge records.

II. Injury prevention programs should meet the needs of the community and be based on the trauma center's resources, data, time, and funds available.

APPROVED: Director, EMS Agency Medical Director, EMS Agency