DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: **MEDICAL SUPPORT DURING TACTICAL OPERATIONS**

EMT, PARAMEDIC, MICN, PHYSICIAN
REFERENCE NO. 840

PURPOSE: To provide direction for tactical emergency medical services (TEMS) personnel assigned to a tactical team by an agency that is conducting a preplanned law enforcement incident.

To provide guidance for emergency transportation of operational canines injured in the line of duty.

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code 1797.10, 1797.220, 1797.221, 1798
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 3

DEFINITIONS:

Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST): The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training develops training standards and evaluates/approves curriculum for basic police officer training programs in California.

Tactical Medicine Training Program: A POST-certified and EMSA-approved, specific operational training program for tactical medicine providers and operators that trains EMS personnel to safely deliver medical care during a law enforcement response.

Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) Personnel: Physicians, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), paramedics or Mobile Intensive Care Nurses (MICNs) that have successfully completed a tactical medicine training program, that provide medical care during a tactical response utilizing their authorized scope of practice.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): Weapons or devices intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a significant number of people through the release of toxic chemicals. A disease organism, or radiation.

Hot Zone: The area in which there is a direct and immediate threat.

Warm Zone: The area deemed by law enforcement to no longer have direct or immediate threats, which can be utilized to perform tactical field care and triage of victims.

Cold Zone: The area where no significant danger or threat is reasonably anticipated for the provider or patient.

Operational Canine (K-9): A dog that is part of a team of law enforcement officers or EMS providers, with specific training in and duties that may include, but not limited to, search and rescue, passive alert dog, and service dog.

APPROVED: Richard Tadeo
Director, EMS Agency

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PRINCIPLES:

1. Training is a critical role in the ability of TEMS personnel to effectively support law enforcement and contribute to the safe and successful resolution of critical incident responses.

2. These guidelines are not intended to replace existing EMS policies or circumvent the established response of EMS in the local county.

3. While medical support is important at any tactical operation, agencies should carefully consider the risk versus benefit of adding armed personnel with limited firearms and tactical experience.

4. Approach to care should follow the principles of Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) where the priority in the hot zone is patient evacuation and hemorrhage control, limited care is provided in the warm zone to address immediate life threats and additional patient care should ideally be provided in the cold zone.

5. The TEMS provider agency should participate in the pre-planning of incident management.

6. EMS personnel who operate in the cold zone should receive an orientation to TEMS operations.

7. K-9 units are an integral part of the team, working collaboratively with EMS responders and police officers as first responders to incidents and crime scenes. Operational K-9s injured in the line of duty may require immediate transport to a facility capable of caring for their injuries.

POLICY:

I. Certification

   A. Paramedics and MICNs that are a member of a TEMS team shall be employed on duty and sponsored by an approved Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider.

      1. Paramedics shall be licensed by the State and accredited in Los Angeles County.

      2. MICNs shall have a current California license as a Registered Nurse and a current Los Angeles County MICN certification.

   B. EMTs shall be certified by the State and have successfully completed the Los Angeles County local scope of practice.

II. Training

   A. TEMS personnel who operate within a hot zone shall be trained, at minimum, through a POST-certified and EMSA-approved or equivalent tactical medicine training program. The training hour requirements as outlined in POST/EMSA Recommendations are:

1. Non-law enforcement TEMS personnel

    a. An 80-hour minimum course which includes didactic and skills training, tactical weapons operations, medical scenarios and includes final written, skills and tactical medical scenario examinations.

2. Law Enforcement TEMS personnel

    a. Must be pre-qualified by successful completion of a POST-approved Basic Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) course and an approved WMD training including medical care for WMD.

    b. A 40-hour minimum course which includes didactic and skills training, medical scenarios and includes final written, skills and tactical medical scenario examinations.

III. Deployment

A. TEMS personnel should be familiar with the location of the nearest medical centers, paramedic base hospitals and specialty centers such as trauma, pediatric trauma centers, etc.

B. When responding to jurisdictions outside of Los Angeles County, TEMS personnel shall operate within their accredited scope of practice.

IV. Emergency Treatment and Transportation of an Injured Police/EMS Responder K-9

A. A licensed Los Angeles County Ambulance Operator is authorized to transport an operational K-9 injured in the line of duty, to a veterinary medical facility capable of treating the K-9 if the unit is unencumbered and no person is requiring medical services of the ambulance at the time the decision is made to transport the K-9.

B. It is the responsibility of the handler to maintain control of the K-9 while providing medical treatment en-route. If comfortable, EMS personnel may assist in the moving and transportation of the K-9 while allowing the necessary space in the back of the ambulance for the handler to render care.

C. An injured K-9 may be aggressive towards its handler, therefore, the EMS personnel should only assist with the K-9's care when it is determined to be safe and at the direction of the handler.

D. The handler is responsible to have all necessary equipment and supplies to care for the injured K-9. EMS personnel may provide additional supplies (dressings, etc.) as needed.

E. It is the handler's responsibility to be familiar with, and provide directions to, the most appropriate receiving veterinary facility. EMS personnel, or their dispatch, at the request of the handler, may contact the veterinary facility (contact information will be provide by the handler) while en-route, in order to provide an estimated time of arrival to the facility.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Policy Manual:

Ref. No. 422, **Authorization for Paramedic Provider Status of a Los Angeles County Based Law Enforcement Agency**
Ref. No. 502, **Patient Destination**
Ref. No. 506, **Trauma Triage**
Ref. No. 802, **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Scope of Practice**
Ref. No. 802.1, **EMT Scope of Practice, Table Forma)**
Ref. No. 803, **Los Angeles County Paramedic Scope of Practice**
Ref. No. 803.1, **Los Angeles County Paramedic Scope of Practice, Table Format**
Ref. No. 1006, **Paramedic Accreditation**
Ref. No. 1010, **Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN) Certification/Recertification**

California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) in collaboration with the Emergency Medical Services Authority, *Tactical Medicine, Operational Programs and Standardized Training Recommendations*, July 2009.