



STANDING ORDER
SAN JUAN ISLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO.1

Large Patient Movement

SO #
04-09

APPROVED: Chief Jim Cole

ISSUED
05/02/2009

PURPOSE

The purpose of this standing order is to provide guidelines for more safely moving large, obese, and awkwardly loaded gurney patients.

STANDING ORDER

1. This standing order governs all volunteers and employees.
2. When transporting patients, the gurney rails should generally be in the upright and locked position.
3. All stretcher straps should be employed on all patients including the shoulder straps, unless it inhibits effective patient care.
4. A 4 (four) person moving, loading, and unloading team (on ends and sides of gurney) should be employed when possible in the following circumstances:
 - 4.1. Uneven terrain or sloping or slanting terrain.
 - 4.2. Patients heavier than 300 pounds.
 - 4.2.1. When the patient is over 300, EMS personnel should consider having a second gurney battery available at cot side.
 - 4.3. Patients whose girth prohibits the gurney rails from being employed in the upright and lock position.
 - 4.4. When the positioning of a patient on the gurney will move the center of gravity from the middle.
 - 4.5. When a patient is combative and or restless.
 - 4.6. When a patient must be transported in the knees to chest kneeling position.
5. When the above conditions exist, personnel should also consider lowering the patient to the lowest gurney height level.
6. Extreme care must be exercised to assure that the lifting team exerts equal lifting force at corners of the gurney to avoid tipping the gurney.
7. Patients should generally be instructed to not shift themselves on the gurney, nor to reach out for anything.
8. If insufficient EMS personnel are available for safe moving, consider calling for an agency assist from either law or fire to assist in patient movement, loading and unloading.
9. When a patient is loaded on the gurney above the lowest height level, there should be a minimum of one or more EMTs in physical control of the cot.
10. When loading or unloading, the EMS personnel should be cautious of hand placement and pinch points and take necessary precautions to avoid injury.
11. All EMT's shall observe safe lifting practices including:
 - 11.1. The use of the legs to provide the lifting power;
 - 11.2. Placing the feet as close to the load as possible;
 - 11.3. Maintaining a straight back at all times.
 - 11.4. Using slider boards to the extent possible.