



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SAN JUAN ISLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO.1

MARINE RESPONSE AND TRANSPORT

SOG #
121-11

APPROVED: Chief Jim Cole, Marine Officer Robert Benton

ISSUED
1/1/2008

REVISED
June 16, 2011

Introduction

San Juan Island EMS has been licensed by Washington State to operate the *M/V Guardian* as a licensed ambulance as per (WAC) 246-976-010. Ground/surface ambulance service should be consistent with regional and state plans..." It is important that personnel certified to provide support for "Guardian" Ambulance Operations be familiar with the WAC in order to ensure compliance with appropriate WAC criteria (with particular attention to Ambulance Standards and Equipment):

<u>246-976-001</u>	Purpose
<u>246-976-010</u>	Definitions
<u>246-976-290</u>	Ground ambulance vehicle standards.
<u>246-976-300</u>	Ground ambulance and aid service -- Equipment.
<u>246-976-310</u>	Ground ambulance and aid service -- Communications equipment.
<u>246-976-330</u>	Ambulance and aid services -- Record requirements.
<u>246-976-340</u>	Ambulance and aid services -- Inspections and investigations.

Purpose

When the dispatch/page defines an off island EMS marine response/rescue or a determination is made that a patient transport by marine vessel is required, the following procedures should be initiated:

1. Marine EMS Response/Rescue

- Consider Dispatching other agencies such as:
 - ✓ U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy SAR support requested.
 - ✓ AirLift Northwest on standby.
 - ✓ San Juan Island Fire Rescue
- Marine qualified EMT(s) and Paramedics only should respond.
 - ✓ All EMS Personnel should be required to have approved Marine Awareness training.
- Marine Aid Response/SAR considerations
 - ✓ Fire support to heavy/rope rescue (Confidence transport)
 - ✓ EMS personnel to support District Fire (Confidence) operations
 - ✓ EMS and ALNW/Coast Guard/US Navy coordination

- ✓ Marine response with possible “in the water” victims requires appropriate patient retrieval methods (including but not limited to dive team, safety swimmer involvement)
- EMS personnel should wear either USCG approved Survival Suit, Float Jackets or inflatable vests (EMS supplied) as a function of event/weather.
- EMTs are to respond directly to the marine transport vessel location.
- Duty medic may request ambulance to respond if additional equipment needed.
- Basic EMS personnel “accountability” procedures are to be followed.
- Patient/incident location defined as accurately as possible.
- Go/no go decision process employed.
- ALS EMS equipment from responding medic rig when possible should be loaded (Advanced Airway, LifePak, Drug Box, and others as a function of the call) on the marine transport vessel and appropriately positioned/secured.
 - ✓ Additional equipment should include patient/EMT safety gear, LZ strobes, etc...
- EMS personnel equipment packages the responsibility of each EMT.
 - ✓ Communications equipment
 - ✓ Survival items included
- Specialty equipment should be considered as a function of the call.
- Search and rescue support by other agencies considered/requested as appropriate to the page/situation.
- Once the incident situation is defined by direct EMS patient contact, Airlift or marine patient transport decisions should be made, with appropriate actions incorporated as defined in the Marine Patient Transport section which follows.
- Upon return to FHR, personnel should identify supplies used in the transport and arrange for replacement on the Guardian.

2. Guardian patient transport

- Ambulance transport of the patient to marine transport vessel (M/V *Guardian*, F/B *Confidence*) per location (port, other per dispatch).
- ALS equipment should be placed and secured aboard the marine response vessel (typically the Guardian) as required to match the transport requirement (ALS or BLS) and equipment WAC.
- Marine qualified EMT(s) and Paramedics should respond.
- EMS Marine Response Personnel should wear either USCG approved Survival Suit, Float Jacks or inflatable vests (EMS supplied) as a function of event/weather.
- EMS personnel “accountability” procedures followed.
- Destination clearly identified.
- Go/no go decision process employed.
- EMS personnel equipment packages the responsibility of each EMT
 - ✓ Communications equipment
 - ✓ Survival items included
- Patient loading and patient/gurney safely secured.
- Pertinent patient information should be:
 - ✓ Confirm BLS or ALS patient
 - ✓ Run Report pink copy
 - ✓ X-rays if appropriate
 - ✓ Medical reports by local facility
 - ✓ Admitting hospital and/or doctor’s name/ER
- Destination:
 - ✓ Name and location of marine transport dock

- ✓ Receiving ambulance company name and contact information
- ✓ Overnight bag/lodging/restaurant info.
- Enroute to destination:
 - ✓ Monitor patient as needed and record vital signs on Run Report.
 - ✓ Address any patient concerns during transport.
 - ✓ In case of an on the water vessel emergency, the EMS team should follow orders of the boat captain.
- Upon Return to FHR
 - ✓ Remove personal as well as EMS equipment and store, replacing supplies/O2 as required.
 - ✓ Decontaminate marine vessel and equipment per SOG's.
 - ✓ Remove any biohazard material and transport to EMS Building using District apparatus only.
 - ✓ After incident paper work and debrief as appropriate.
 - ✓ Identify supplies used in the transport and arrange for replacement on the *M/V Guardian*.

Go/No-Go Considerations

1. Call nature...patient transport/outer island response.
 - Patient location/condition/personnel on scene
 - Patient Transport Destination
 - Destination contact information (ambulance service, reporting party...).
2. Environmental (destination sensitive)
 - Weather
 - Sea States
 - Tides
 - USGC/Vessel Traffic System/WSF check
3. Vessel
 - Crew
 - ✓ Captain
 - ✓ Navigator
 - Equipment
 - ✓ Navigation
 - ✓ Communication
 - ✓ Propulsion
 - ✓ Fuel
 - ✓ Safety
4. EMS Equipment
 - EMT
 - ✓ PFD
 - ✓ Survival
 - ✓ Communications
 - Off island
 - ✓ Support equipment
 - Off island EMS packages
5. Patient Specific Transport Equipment
 - ✓ Patient PFD
 - ✓ Identification
 - ✓ Personal effects