

REGION 2
SCHOOL BUS INCIDENT
Release of Minors Involved in School Bus Incidents
POLICY

STATEMENT: Incidents involving school buses pose unique challenges to the EMS provider in assuring proper release of uninjured children. Once Medical Control confirms that the minor children are not injured, the custody and responsibility for these uninjured children will remain with the responding EMS provider until the children are transferred to parents, legal guardians, school officials or the hospital. If no procedure exists to have children transferred to a parent, legal guardian or school official, then these children will need to be transported to the hospital.

PURPOSE: To reduce the number of uninjured children transported to the hospital and to reduce the EMS time and resources used at the scene of school bus incidents.

PROCEDURE:

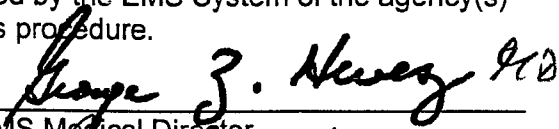
- A. On arrival at the scene, EMS personnel shall determine the category of the incident and request appropriate resources. EMS must also accomplish a complete assessment of the scene to include at least: mechanism of injury, number of patients, damage to the vehicle, triage as outlined in the System Plan. Once this has been accomplished, then the patients may be assigned to one of the following categories:
1. **CATEGORY A:** Mechanism of injury, school bus occupancy indicates that at least one child may reasonably be expected to have significant injuries: (IE: roll-over, high-speed impact, intrusion into the bus etc) or significant injury is present in one or more children. All children in this incident category must be transferred to an appropriate hospital unless a System refusal form is signed by a parent or legal guardian.
 2. **CATEGORY B:** Mechanism of injury, school bus occupancy indicates that at least one child may reasonably be expected to have minor injuries. (IE: speed of impact, intrusion into bus, etc) or minor injury in one or more children exists with no obvious mechanism of injury that could reasonably be expected to cause significant injuries. EMS personnel must complete the EMS multiple casualty release form and secure a signature of an appropriate school official.
 3. **CATEGORY C:** Mechanism of injury, school bus occupancy indicates no injuries may be present and that the release of uninjured children may be the only EMS need. No injuries are present in any children and no obvious mechanism of injury exists (use approved System Multiple Patient Release School Bus Incident form).
 4. **CATEGORY D:** If the pediatric patient (s) have special healthcare needs and/or communication difficulties, then all of these patients must be transported to the hospital for evaluation and disposition unless approval for release is received from Medical Control or parent/legal guardian has signed the approved refusal form.

- B. After determining the category of the incident, EMS personnel shall determine the extent of EMS involvement and contact Medical Control. **Medical Control** shall approve the implementation of this policy.
- C. Adults, victims 18 years and older, and occupants of other vehicles will be treated or released in accordance with routine System operating procedures.
- D. If Medical Control has approved usage of this policy/plan, then each provider will implement their procedure for contacting parents, legal guardians or appropriate school officials to receive custody of uninjured children.
- The approved system Multiple Casualty Release form for School Bus Incidents must be utilized for all children who will not be transported.
 - Each child transported must have a completed run report.
 - One run report indicating the nature of the incident (etc.) shall be completed and must include all information regarding the incident including the number of patients released. Keep a copy of this report with the release form or with refusal forms signed by the parents.
 - Parents/legal guardian or appropriate school official must be given a copy of the Patient Education sheet for refusal/release of care.
 - Any parent or legal guardian who arrives on scene to remove and assume responsibility for their child will be requested to sign an individual refusal form.
- E. EMS providers shall use reasonable means to contact the parents or school officials. This could include use of telephone, cellular phone or direct contact by police. If contacted by phone, EMS providers shall take reasonable means to confirm the identity and authority of the parent or school official.
- F. Once the identity and authority of the parent or school official has been established, the EMS provider may release the child to the parent, guardian, school official or alternate transport source. School officials will follow their established program for informing parents and/or legal guardians in regard to incidents.
- G. *The health and safety of the child is the primary concern. It is the responsibility of the EMS provider to assure the child is returned to the parent or placed on the schools alternate transport vehicle. If the EMS provider on the scene determines a child should receive a physician evaluation or offered medical care, the child **WILL BE TRANSPORTED** to the hospital unless the parents are on scene and consent to refusal.*
- H. Each Pre-hospital provider agency in the System who may likely respond to a school bus incident, must contact the school superintendents in their district to obtain the name and title of the "appropriate school official" who may take responsibility for the children on the bus involved in the incident.
- I. Utilization review (CQI) will be conducted by the EMS System of the agency(s) involved for each implementation of this procedure.


Created: 9/00

Revised: 10/00

Approved as Revised November 2000



EMS Medical Director



EMS System Coordinator

REGIONAL II
EMS SYSTEMS

EMS MULTIPLE CASUALTY RELEASE FORM
(SCHOOL BUS INCIDENT)

Run # _____ Location: _____

Date: _____ Medical Control Contacted: _____

Time: _____ ECRN/M.D.: _____

Ambulance #: _____ Telemetry Radio Used: _____

Description of Incident: _____

of Victims: _____ School District: _____

Bus Company: _____ Driver: _____

School Official/Designee Present: Yes ___ No ___ How Contacted: _____ Arrival Time: _____

Police at Scene (Name/Badge#) _____

The following children were involved in the above School Bus Incident. They have been medically triaged and no injuries were found. The appropriate School official/designee has been advised to **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY** if there is a change in any of the children that raise any suspicion of potential injury.

NAME

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

Print: _____ DOB/AGE: _____

School Official/Designee

Signature: _____ Print: _____

EMS Personnel, Triage Officer: At least three (2) EMT Personnel Signatures and one Witness:

1. _____ EMT

2. _____ EMT

1. _____ Witness