

MEDICAL ASSIST CALLS

1. **PURPOSE:** To delineate procedures used when responding to medical emergency calls, or when assisting medical personnel such as H.E.M.S.I., or Huntsville Fire medically trained personnel.
2. **SCOPE:** This Written Directive is applicable to all personnel.
3. **PROCEDURES:**

A. WHEN RESPONDING TO DISPATCHED CALLS:

If an officer is dispatched to a call and medical assistance is needed, the Officer will assess the situation. After assessing the situation, the Officer will have dispatch notify H.E.M.S.I for an appropriate response. The Officer will forward patient information to include, if possible:

1. Chief complaint and incident type(s).
2. Approximate age of patient(s).
3. Is the patient conscious?
4. Is the patient breathing?
5. Is there chest pain?
6. Is there significant bleeding?

B. WHEN A PATIENT IS INSIDE A LOCKED BUILDING:

1. When circumstances are present indicating an immediate life threatening situation, HEMSI, and Huntsville Fire will be advised to respond, and the Officer will attempt to find an entry point to the building.
 - a. If a forced entry is needed, and there are no indications apparent from the outside of the building showing the patient's condition, the Officer will stand by and allow Huntsville Fire to perform the entry, and then assist in patient care.
 - b. If forced entry is needed and there are articulable conditions that the patient is in immediate danger and an additional wait could jeopardize the patient, (such as the patient is yelling for help or is seen to be unconscious) the Officer may make forcible entry prior to the arrival of Huntsville Fire, and then assist in patient care.
2. When circumstances are present indicating a non-life threatening medical condition, HEMSI and Huntsville Fire will be advised to respond and forced entry will be made by Fire or Medical personnel once they arrive.

C. WHEN MEDICAL PERSONNEL REQUEST ASSISTANCE IN TREATING A PATIENT:

1. If medical personnel need assistance in treating a cooperative patient, all reasonable efforts will be made to assist within the limits of our training.
2. If medical personnel need assistance in treating a non-cooperative patient, all reasonable efforts will be made to assist, keeping in mind that our personnel do not have medical training or any lawful authority to restrain a patient that is refusing treatment.
3. If a Paramedic or Doctor makes the medical determination that the patient must be transported without their consent, the Officer will not attempt to restrain the patient as we have no legal authority to do so. Medically trained personnel from Huntsville Fire may assist in that endeavor as their policies and training permit.
4. No enforcement action may be taken unless the actions of persons present rise to the level of committing a misdemeanor or felony in the presence of the Officer. The Officer may not physically intervene in the circumstances absent the presence of a criminal act, or breach of the peace.