



# GENERAL ORDER

## GENERAL ORDER 320.03

### Transportation of Prisoners

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES BUREAU

Issue Date: September 19, 1984

Revision Date: February 26, 2020

#### 1 APPLICABILITY

2 All Personnel

#### 3 POLICY

4 The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (Department) response to law  
5 enforcement and correctional facilities for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) shall be  
6 accomplished in a secure and efficient manner in order to provide for the safety of Department  
7 personnel, patients, and law enforcement/correctional officers.

#### 8 DEFINITIONS

9 ➤ None

#### 10 PROCEDURES

##### 11 GENERAL:

- 12 • Upon notification to the Howard County Public Safety Answering Point (Howard
- 13 Communications) of a request for EMS resources at a law enforcement or correctional
- 14 facility, the following information, at a minimum, shall be requested:
  - 15 ○ Name of the institution;
  - 16 ○ Name of the individual calling;
  - 17 ○ Telephone number at which immediate information can be obtained pertaining
  - 18 to this incident, when applicable;
  - 19 ○ Number of patients;
  - 20 ○ Nature of injury/illness;
  - 21 ○ Condition of patient; and
  - 22 ○ Entrance to be used by responding personnel.

##### 24 GUIDELINES FOR SECURITY OF PERSONNEL:

- 25 • Responding Department apparatus shall await the arrival of police/correctional
- 26 personnel at the predetermined location of the facility to assure timely access to both
- 27 the facility and the patient.
- 28 • Department responders shall request that at least one police/correctional officer remain
- 29 with Department personnel at all times while inside the premises.



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- 30 • Department responders shall work with law enforcement/correctional officers to ensure  
31 that Department responders are able to operate in a **safe and secure** area that is  
32 appropriate for providing patient care. In those circumstances where Department  
33 personnel are required to provide patient care outside of predetermined safe locations  
34 due to situations of patient entrapment or when movement may endanger the patient's  
35 life, Department responders shall request that the immediate area will be cleared of all  
36 other prisoners and the area made **safe and secure**.
- 37 • Department responders shall request access to the patient that allows for a **wheeled**  
38 **ambulance stretcher** in order to safely move patients.
- 39 • Department personnel shall work with law enforcement/correction officers to ensure  
40 they maintain rapid access to equipment on their apparatus should it become  
41 necessary.
- 42 • Department responders shall request that a police/correctional officer shall ride on  
43 board the ambulance with each prisoner transported.
  - 44 ○ The decision to bring a weapon into an ambulance is the sole decision of the  
45 transporting police/correctional officer.
- 46
- 47 • Department personnel shall not be responsible for patient security.
- 48 • Patients requiring medical restraints shall be handled pursuant to GO 320.07: Patient  
49 Restraints and the appropriate MIEMSS Protocols.
- 50 • It shall be the responsibility of all police/correctional facility personnel accompanying  
51 the ambulance to the hospital to obtain transportation back to the police/correctional  
52 institution.
- 53 • **Department personnel shall not operate within a law enforcement/correctional**  
54 **facility unless the above stated conditions can be accomplished by the facility**  
55 **personnel. If these conditions are not able to be accomplished, providers are**  
56 **authorized to delay patient care and move to a safe and secure area.**
  - 57 ○ Personnel that find correctional facility personnel are unable to accomplish the  
58 conditions outlined in this general order shall contact a Medical Duty Officer (or  
59 Battalion Chief in the absence of an available MDO) immediately, or as soon as is  
60 feasible without delaying patient care. The goal is to quickly determine the most  
61 appropriate course of action based on the circumstances with as little delay to  
62 patient care as is possible.

## 64 GUIDELINES FOR PATIENT CARE:

- 65 • Patients from police/correctional facilities shall be transported to the closest  
66 appropriate medical facility, based on the nature of the medical emergency and hospital  
67 status.
- 68 • All medical communications to consultation centers and hospitals shall include the  
69 unique nature of the situation (i.e., patient is a prisoner from a police/correctional  
70 facility).

## 71 REFERENCES

- 72 • GO 320.07: Patient Restraints



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## SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT CHANGES

76 Formatting of the document was updated.  
77 The necessity for wheeled ambulance stretcher access was added.  
78 Guidance was added for providers to follow if they operate in an area that is unsafe or not  
79 secure.

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## FORMS/ATTACHMENTS

- 81 • None

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## APPROVED

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Christine Uhlhorn, Fire EMS Chief  
Office of the Fire Chief

Author:

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Sean Alliger, Assistant Chief  
Emergency Services Bureau