

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

BASIC TENANTS FOR EMS PERSONNEL

1. Consider possible medical causes of mental health symptoms:
 - ✓ Head injury
 - ✓ Severe infection
 - ✓ Drugs
 - ✓ Hypothermia
 - ✓ Poisoning
 - ✓ Hypoxia
 - ✓ Hypoglycemia
2. Prevent health threatening circumstances.
3. Timing is critical. Working efficiently reduces the progression of a disorder and will free you sooner for other emergencies.
4. Stay within the limits of your competence.
5. Seek consultation and aid from other professionals. The more information you can gather, the better the quality of treatment that can be delivered.
6. Gain and maintain control of emergency circumstances until control has been taken over by other professionals.
7. Contact **Community Mental Health** at **(509) 838-4651** if patient refuses transport and is an apparent danger to self or others.
8. If restraint required, recruit support from law enforcement (see **Restraints for Aggressive Patients** policy).