



## CANCELLATION OR REDUCTION OF ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS) RESPONSE

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify the responsibilities of Basic Life Support (BLS) prehospital emergency medical personnel when canceling/reducing responding Advanced Life Support (ALS) resources when patient contact has been made.

### AUTHORITY

Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 4, Article 1, §§ 1797.204, 1797.220  
Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 5, §§ 1798 et seq  
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Article 7, §§ 100169, 100170  
California Highway Patrol (CHP) Ambulance Driver's Handbook HPH 82.4

### DEFINITIONS

**Code Two (2) or Priority Two (2):** Is a response mode where a unit proceeds expeditiously, without the use of red lights and siren, while obeying all traffic laws without exception.

**Code Three (3) or Priority One (1):** is an emergency response using red lights and siren. California Vehicle Code, Division 11, Chapter 1, Article 2, § 21055 and the California Code of Regulations Title 13, Division 2, Chapter 5, Article 1, §§ 1104, 1105.

**Code Four (4) or Canceled Call:** is defined as no further assistance is needed by the Incident Commander (IC) or their designee. Further responding units are canceled. All ALS units dispatched via the 9-1-1 system that are canceled prior to arrival on scene shall be considered to be Code 4.

**Competent Person:** is a person with a capacity to understand the nature of his/her medical condition, and not impaired by alcohol, drugs or medications, mental illness, traumatic injury, grave disability or mental abilities diminished because of age.

**No Patient Contact:** is defined as arrival at scene and Unable to Locate (UTL) any patient. Verbal or physical contact with a patient has not been made.

### POLICY

- I. Cancellation of Responding Units:
  - A. The IC or their designee on the scene of an incident may cancel a responding ALS resource upon determination of the following:
    1. That the incident does not involve an injury or illness which would require assessment, treatment or transport by Paramedic personnel; or,
    2. When the patient is a competent adult and is refusing ALS assessment and or transport.
      - a. Before canceling the ALS resource, consider the medical legal responsibility involved. Once an ALS unit has arrived on scene, and



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## Policy

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ALS personnel are within visual range of the patient, the ALS personnel should attempt to make patient contact.

### II. Reducing Code of Responding Units:

- A. The IC or their designee on the scene of a medical incident may reduce a responding ALS resource from Code 3 to Code 2 upon determination that, in the best judgment of the IC, the illness or injury is not immediately life-threatening and that the difference in Code 3 and Code 2 response time would not likely have an impact on patient safety.

### III. Incidents when the ALS resource should not be canceled by BLS Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel:

#### A. Medical

1. Cardiac arrest with active Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
2. Cardiac symptoms
3. Difficulty breathing
4. Altered mental status
5. Drug ingestion/Poisoning
6. Seizures
7. Near drowning
8. Gastrointestinal (GI) or Obstetrical (OB) hemorrhage
9. All Pediatric patients less than (<) twelve (12) years old

#### B. Trauma

1. Respiratory problems associated with trauma
2. Significant bleeding associated with trauma
3. Trauma where the patient has lost consciousness.
4. All penetrating injuries to the head, neck, chest, torso, and extremities proximal to the elbow and knee.
5. In general, any traumatic event with a mechanism of injury and high energy impact consistent with serious injury despite a lack of clinical signs and symptoms such as:
  - a. Ejections from a motorized vehicle.
  - b. Death in the same passenger compartment.
  - c. Vehicular crashes requiring extrication time of greater than (>) twenty (20) minutes.
  - d. Falls that appear to be > twenty (20) feet.
  - e. Vehicle rollovers.
  - f. High-speed vehicular crashes with initial speed > forty Miles Per Hour (40 MPH), major auto deformity > twenty (20) inches, or intrusion into passenger compartment > twelve (12) inches.
  - g. Auto-pedestrian/auto-bicycle injuries with significant impact > five (5) MPH.
  - h. Pedestrians thrown from or run over by a vehicle.
  - i. Motorcycle crash > twenty (20) MPH or with separation of a rider from the bike.