


Title: Paramedic & Fire Fighter Interaction City of Thunder Bay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedure <input type="checkbox"/> SOP
Category: Primary & Advanced Care Non-Clinical Dept/Prog/Service: Base Hospital Program	Distribution: Superior North EMS, COTB Fire & Rescue Services
Approved: Program Medical Director & Program Manager Signature: 	Approval Date: Jun 1999 Reviewed/Revised Date: May 2017

1. PURPOSE

To ensure Superior North EMS Paramedics and City of Thunder Bay Fire Fighters are aware of the expectations of the NW Region Base Hospital when providing patient care in the pre-hospital setting.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Firefighters and Paramedics frequently interact in the line of duty. When these personnel interact in the pre-hospital setting and when performing Controlled Medical Acts the Base Hospital Medical Director will ensure cooperation is maintained and appropriate action occurs in the best interest of the patient.

3. DEFINITIONS

- i. **Paramedic:** as defined in subsection 1(1) of the Ambulation Act Ontario Regulation 257/00
- ii. **Primary Care Paramedic (PCP):** as defined in subsection 8 (1) of the Ambulation Act Ontario Regulation 257/00
- iii. **Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP):** defined in subsection 8 (2) of the Ambulation Act Ontario Regulation 257/00

4. PROCEDURE

- A. Paramedics will assume responsibility for the patient upon arrival on scene I.E. higher medical authority.
- B. Fire Fighters may assist Paramedics with patient care, as

follows: **Firefighters can:**

- Apply defibrillator pads and ready the AED.
- Provide BLS airway management including insertion of oropharyngeal airways.
- Provide oropharyngeal suctioning with the V-Vac suction.
- Initiate CPR.
- Assist with carrying equipment and patients.
- Assist with the stretcher.
- Ventilate the intubated patient with a bag valve mask **after** confirmation of endotracheal tube placement by the Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP).

Firefighters shall not:

- Assist with Advanced Life Support airway intubation equipment, excluding ventilation as outlined above.
- Handle sharps.
- Spike/ prime intravenous equipment.
- Handle or inject medications.
- Suction endotracheal tubes.
- Activate or apply any patient care equipment they have not been trained to use E.g. CPAP, advanced airways, etc.

5. REFERENCE

Tiered Response Agreement TBRHSC and the City of Thunder Bay (2005)