PURPOSE

To insure that the coroner is notified for all “Triple Zeros” and termination of resuscitation (TOR) occurring in the field.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/FORMS TO BE USED

N/A

PROCEDURE

I. The Coroner will be notified for all Triple Zeros or TOR granted in the field. The state mandates that the coroner be notified for all accidental deaths, (e.g. firearms, burns, stabbing, drowning, electrical shock), homicidal death, suicidal death, abortion, and sudden death.

II. When EMS personnel are summoned to the scene and are advised by law enforcement that the deceased patient is a medical examiner/coroner case, the procedures to follow should be coordinated with local law enforcement and may include:

   A. If the patient has obvious signs of death the coroner will be notified immediately.

   B. If a crime is suspected, the scene shall be preserved.

   C. The paramedic shall stand by until the coroner or his representative arrives on the scene or the coroner’s office requests a transfer of the victim to the morgue.

   D. If law enforcement personnel are involved in an investigation pre-hospital personnel will not disturb the scene until the detective in charge of the crime releases the scene.

III. Contact on-line medical control to confirm triple zero. See appropriate policy.

IV. Record all pertinent information on EMS Report form. Note: An EMS report form must be completed on all medical examiner/coroner cases.

   A. Name of physician or ECRN contacted.

   B. Patient and scene assessment (even if no direct patient contact)
C. Keep detailed records of the incident including your observations of the victim and scene. In many felony cases, the EMT will be called to testify and clear, concise records are of utmost importance.

V. Transport of Triple 0 or TOR: Situations may arise where prolonged delays resulting from dispensations of obviously dead patients would tie up an ALS/MIC vehicles for unreasonable lengths of time. If the paramedics/PHRN encounter a patient who they confirm to be a Triple 0 over telemetry, they may transfer responsibility for transportation of that patient to another ambulance service, either an ALS or BLS after the coroner has been notified & if police remain on the scene until the coroner arrives.

VI. If the deceased is pronounced at the scene by a medical examiner/coroner and released from the scene, the EMT may transfer the body to the location of the coroner’s request.

Kevin Bernard
Department Leader

DATE: 03/29/2019

NOTE: Policies with original signatures are on file in Administration.