

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL	
Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: March 1, 2010
Topic: 8. Occupational Health & Safety	Replaces: 4.41
Subject: 5.4 Light Rescue / Remote Response	
Policy No. G.8.5.4.	Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE

Paramedics may employ/assist in minimal and/or remote patient extraction when deemed safe to do so, when formal rescue services are minimal/unavailable, minimal patient entrapment exists and/or patient access issues are manageable with available resources.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

PROCEDURE

Patient Rescue may include extrication (i.e. removal from vehicles) and extraction from difficult locations (i.e. ditches, ravines) or remote locations (i.e. trails, woodlots).

Paramedics/EMA's shall not engage in search procedures or technical rescues (difficult access techniques).

- 1) Patient Extrication shall be performed in such a way as to ensure the safety of self, partner, patient and bystanders.
 - Paramedics/EMA's are only to use extrication equipment provided within the ambulance if they are trained in the safe operation of their use.
 - Difficult access techniques shall be performed by trained allied agencies. The Paramedic's/EMA's focus is on the care and safety of the patient and their assistance with difficult access techniques is limited as such while maintaining their personal safety.
 - All available safety equipment shall be used. (e.g. – helmets, gloves, goggles, masks, etc.)

- 2) Remote Patient Extraction should only be attempted with the approval of the Duty Officer. The Patient location must known and confirmed as per allied agency, usually OPP or MNR. Additionally:
 - Maximum distance from the nearest road access by ambulance may not exceed 0.5km (5-10 minute walk),
 - Communications with CACC via portable radio must be maintained and confirmed by radio check every minute while gaining access to the patient,
 - Characteristic of the terrain to be travelled must be such that the Paramedic / EMA is able to walk the terrain while carrying equipment

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL	
Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: March 1, 2010
Topic: 8. Occupational Health & Safety	Replaces: 4.41
Subject: 5.4 Light Rescue / Remote Response	
Policy No. G.8.5.4.	Page 2 of 2

- and/or patient, unaided by utilizing handholds, ropes etc.,
 - The Paramedic/EMA must feel comfortable and properly equipped to provide the response,
 - The Paramedic / EMA has the appropriate clothing (winter or rain gear) and PPE (such as bug spray) so that personal safety and well being is maintained.
 - There is sufficient daylight hours left to perform the remote patient extraction
- 3) Remote manual extraction may require up to six rescuers to carry the patient. Allied agencies should be considered.
 - 4) Any rescues outside of this Directive are not permissible except by authorization of another Directive (i.e. Patient Access – Snowmobile – Boat) and authorized by the Duty Officer.
 - 5) Rescue activities/efforts shall be documented on the Ambulance Call Report and Incident Report.

REFERENCE

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *Paramedic Safety Equipment*, Policy and Procedure G. 8.5.3.

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *patient Access, Snowmobile – Boat*, Policy and Procedure G. 8.5.5.