

| Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL | |
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| Section: G. Emergency Medical Services | Effective Date: March 1, 2009 |
| Topic: 8. Vehicles, Equipment & Facilities | Replaces: G.6.29. |
| Subject: 5.5. Patient Access Off Road Response (Snowmobile, Boat, ATV's, etc.) | |
| Policy No. G.8.5.5. | Page 1 of 2 |

PURPOSE

To provide emergency patient care to a patient when a land vehicle cannot access the patient due to terrain, snow accumulation or water necessitates the use of a boat.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMAs, Management

PROCEDURE

- 1) Rescue is not the mandate of EMS. This mandate usually belongs with Police and Fire departments.
- 2) The use of this procedure shall be under the direct supervision of the Operations Manager or Duty Officer who will ensure that:
 - EMS staff do not respond until appropriate transportation arrangements have been made and are approved by them.
 - An EMS response will be in conjunction with a lead agency which will normally be a fire or police department.
 - The exact location of the patient is known.
 - An EMS response will enhance the overall rescue success.
- 3) If the victim is not accessible by road with an ambulance then all pertinent information must be gathered regarding location of the patient and type of rescue required from dispatch so that an informed decision can be made.
- 4) Use of snowmobiles, off road vehicles or boats will only be considered if:
 - Road access is not possible.
 - The use of an air ambulance helicopter is not possible.
 - The operators of the equipment have been trained specifically for an emergency response/rescue, and also supply and operate the specific equipment (boat/snowmobile). Examples are:
 - Ontario Provincial Police
 - Local Police
 - Fire Department
 - MNR Officer
 - Approved Local Volunteer Search & Rescue Team
 - Safety equipment suggested and/or required for use on a snow mobile, off road vehicle or boat is available for responding staff members.
 - This equipment shall be worn by Paramedics/staff.

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- Paramedics should not place themselves at undue risk if proper protective clothing/dress is not available.
 - Back up coverage can be arranged to maintain the primary coverage area.
 - Communications can be maintained between CACC and the crew while they respond.
- 5) The safety of staff is paramount. Alternate plans may have to be made.
- Under no circumstance will a crew respond in a privately owned and/or operated snow machine, off road vehicle or boat.
 - Paramedics/EMAs have the right to refuse a boat, off road vehicle or snowmobile response if they feel they have not been adequately trained, do not have the appropriate clothing/equipment or if they are concerned with their safety because of the specific circumstances.