

El Dorado County Fire Protection District

Standard Operating Guideline

Article: 3 Emergency Operations
Section: 27 Paramedic Ambulance Operator

Adopted: 10-01-2022
Revised: 02/20/2025

I. Purpose

To establish procedures and guidelines to assist in using PAOs at “non-medical aide” emergency scenes.

II. Policy

It is the policy of the El Dorado County Fire Protection District to appropriately utilizes its safety personnel in the safest and most appropriate may to mitigate emergency incidents that it is responsible for. PAOs primary role is to provide Advanced Life Support at emergency incidents and to work in the ICS system, assigned as needed by the Incident Commander.

III. Definitions

1. IDLH: Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health.
2. PAO: Paramedic Ambulance Operator.
3. PPE: Personnel Protective Equipment.
4. ICS: Incident Command System.
5. IC: Incident Commander.

IV. Procedure

PAOs are not authorized to enter any IDLH atmosphere on any incident. PAOs shall utilized their PPE as per the incident they are dispatched to.

1. Motor Vehicle Accidents: PAOs shall be assigned by the IC to provide ALS care to the injured and assist with other incident needs as per their training.
2. Wildland Fire: PAOs shall report to the IC and advise that they are for medical standby at the direction of the IC and/or their designee.
3. Structure Fires: PAOs shall report to the IC and advise that they are for medical standby at the direction of the IC and/or their designee. They may assist with other fireground duties but not authorized to enter any IDLH atmosphere.
4. All other: PAOs shall be assigned by the IC and/or their designee to provide ALS care to the injured and assist with other incident needs as per their training.
5. Split PAO / Firefighter crews: If Medic units are staffed split, they shall remain as a non- IDLH unit. The only exception shall be, if on an incident IC’ed by a County Fire Chief Officer, the IC may assign the firefighter to a County Fire engine. Accountability must be addressed.