

# INTRODUCTION

Preplanning Mutual Aid benefits each Corps in Saratoga County. There is no one now, nor in the future, who will be better qualified to make mutual aid decisions for an EMS agency than its own leaders. Preplans put the expertise of local leaders on paper so they are available to the agency members and the rest of the County. Preplans make the expertise of Corps leaders available at times when the leaders themselves are away or otherwise not available.

The Saratoga County EMS Council developed this plan. Work started during summer of 1992 and took three years to complete. Revisions have been published at least annually. The EMS Council is charged by County and State governments with coordinating Emergency Medical Services in Saratoga County. Each ambulance service provider in the County holds membership in the EMS Council. By this virtue, each Corps is a voluntary participant in the Mutual Aid Plan outlined herein.

It must be emphasized that this document will never replace the ability of EMS providers to make other choices based on unique needs of an actual incident.

The purposes of this document/plan are as follows:

1. Provide coverage of a Corps response area when it is unable to respond to emergency calls.
2. Establish a 5-minute maximum time in Saratoga County from receipt of a call until an ambulance is enroute.
3. Automatically enact mutual aid preplans when an ambulance crew is not confirmed at 3 minutes or when an ambulance is not enroute in 5 minutes.
4. Upon request, automatically provide up to 5 ambulances from a preplanned listing of nearest available appropriate ambulance services.
5. Automatically notify and respond a County EMS Coordinator to assist Corps leaders/Incident Commanders when resources needs exceed preplans.
6. Automatically place a helicopter on standby for critical patient conditions at locations that exceed 30 minutes ground transport time to the nearest trauma center.

# **EMS DISPATCH AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID PROCEDURE**

If an ambulance has not confirmed a crew within 3 minutes of initial activation, EMS Dispatch will mutual aid the call following the Mutual Aid Preference (MAP) on file with the Office of Emergency Services, unless otherwise requested by a member of the Corps of jurisdiction. Crew confirmation means radio contact with EMS Dispatch by a member of the EMS service activated indicating that a crew is available.

If a crew was confirmed and the Corps of jurisdiction has not started enroute to the scene within 5 minutes from the time of initial activation, EMS Dispatch reactivate the Corps to request a first responder and mutual aid the call following the Mutual Aid Preference (MAP) on file. EMS Dispatch may not accept requests to tone for additional manpower after 5 minutes from initial activation.

Mutual Aid can be cancelled only when one of the following occurs:

1. A request to cancel the ambulance is received from an EMS provider at the scene.
2. Any Saratoga County ambulance signs enroute to the scene.
3. It is determined that a patient is no longer at the scene.

If a Corps fails to respond an ambulance to any call (excepting ALS intercept requests), EMS Dispatch will place the Corps on Automatic Mutual Aid (AMA) status for all additional calls. The Corps will remain on AMA status until such time as a member requests return to regular service or the Corps answers a subsequent call within 5 minutes of initial activation. For these purposes, any call voluntarily Turned Over To (TOT) another agency will be considered as not answered and AMA status will be activated.

To assure that Corps members know that AMA status has been enacted, any crew that signs back in service (from another call, standby, etc.) will be advised by EMS Dispatch that their Corps is on AMA. A list of Corps on AMA will also be included with the regular EMS Radio announcements.

When a call has been mutual aided, there is no restriction on the agency of jurisdiction from responding if they are able to raise a crew before another agency arrives at the scene. The objective of this plan is for the closest ambulance to get to the patient in the shortest time. Crews who sign enroute before a mutual aid Corps should request cancellation of the mutual aid Corps, unless the other Corps will be needed for the call (i.e.: ALS, multiple patients, etc.).

To avoid depleting the resources of any single agency, if an ambulance is covering a mutual aid call for another Corps, any additional call that would ordinarily require mutual aid from the Corps already on the mutual aid call would pass to the next choice on the MAP.