

County of Santa Clara

Emergency Medical Services Agency

Public Health Department
645 South Bascom Avenue
San Jose, California 95128
(Tel) 408.885.4250
(Fax) 408.885.3538



March 2, 2007

To: Private Ambulance Services Operating in Santa Clara County

From: John Blain
Compliance Coordinator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Blain", is placed to the right of the "From:" field.

Subject: Private Ambulance Services –
Use of Emergency Lights/Siren by EMS Utility Vehicles

Private ambulance services operating within the County of Santa Clara are regulated by the County Ordinance Code and any applicable Santa Clara County Prehospital Care Policies. As such, non-ambulance units are identified in the County Ordinance as EMS Utility Vehicles (EUVs). Private supervisor units, Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs) operated by the Exclusive Operating Area Contractor, MCI support units, etc. are all considered EUVs.

In the County of Santa Clara, private ambulances may respond with emergency lights and siren when responding to 9-1-1 calls (as dispatched by County Communications), when providing authorized interfacility transfers with a physician's order for the use of emergency lights and siren, or when authorized by the County.

As an EOA contracted 9-1-1 ambulance service provider, AMR 9-1-1 ALS System Supervisors may respond with emergency lights and sirens ("Code 3") under the following circumstances:

- When requested to respond with emergency lights and siren by a public safety agency
- When dispatched as part of a standardized response compliment approved by the County (MCI, FAA Alerts, aircraft down, etc.)
- When directed or authorized by the County

Should you have any questions concerning this subject matter, please contact me at (408) 885-4258 or at john.blain@hhs.sccgov.org.