

SAEMS PRE-HOSPITAL PROTOCOLS

Divert / Bypass Protocol

I. Purpose

- A. To define common criteria for activating hospital divert and to outline decisions regarding choice of appropriate destination facility based on existing protocols, in accordance with ARS 36-2205 and R9-25-504.

II. Procedure

A. Divert (Internal Disaster)

1. When a receiving facility activates their internal disaster plan, they may remove themselves from the EMS system until such time that they inform Tucson MEDS Control that they are open again. The facility will enter the internal disaster status into EMResource, and provide electronic updates as appropriate. Tucson MEDS Control will alert all receiving facilities and make them aware of the facility on internal disaster. NOTE: Internal disaster will be reserved for true physical disasters or major threats to public safety (e.g. bomb threat, hazardous material incident, law enforcement lockdown, etc.)

B. Specialty Center (Bypass)

Existing SAEMS protocols will guide patient destination. Should a specialty center initiate divert, those specialty patients should be transported to the next closest specialty center:

1. Patient requests for transport to the facility of their choice will be considered when appropriate.
2. Unstable patients may be transported to the closest facility.
3. Trauma patient distribution shall be based on the current Trauma Triage Decision Scheme. Unstable trauma patients will be transported to the trauma center. If appropriate airway measures are not successful in the field, transport to the closest facility.
4. During Mass Casualty Incidents involving trauma patients, a trauma center may elect to redirect other non-trauma patients.

C. System Evaluation

1. All facilities have the capacity to generate data in EMResource for tracking their own internal disaster/saturation status.
2. A divert subcommittee will be appointed by PEMS to handle issues dealing with divert and EMResource. They will be responsible for reporting any issues pertaining to the above directly to PEMS.
3. Any other subcommittee of SAEMS may bring forth potential issues as well as solutions to problems pertaining to divert or EMResource.