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MEMORANDUM #2009-4

FROM: Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority
Office of the Medical Director

SUBJECT: Emergency Vehicle Driving

Recently the issue of how first response vehicles should proceed after learning the ambulance is “responding non-emergently” has been proposed. Please reference the SVMCA “Emergency Vehicle Driving Guideline.”

Emergency Vehicle Driving Guideline, Page 1:

“POLICY:

The vehicle driving policy establishes standards for all emergency response personnel.
This policy is designed to ensure the safety of all personnel, patients, and the general public. SVMCA requires all EMS personnel to operate vehicles in a safe, courteous, professional and lawful manner at all times.”

“DEFINITIONS:

Non-emergency: This category of responses is for non-life threatening emergencies which require urgent response, but do not require the use of emergency warning devices.
When possible, Non-emergency Responses are determined by the Communications/Dispatch Center (MedCom and/or Central). Based on information obtained from the EMD protocols as available, and require prompt non-emergency response. Personnel will observe all traffic regulations.”

Therefore, once either of the dispatch centers has utilized the EMD protocols, and the call has been determined to be “non-emergency,” all personnel and responding agencies are to treat the call as a non-emergent response. The common update “MMR is responding non-emergently” is notification that the EMD process has categorized the call as an alpha level call and a non-emergent response.