

**OKALOOSA COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

Title:	Quick Response Vehicle
Policy:	443.00
Purpose:	To establish and identify field response utilization criteria for the use of quick response vehicles to provide first response to incidents and support basic life support units

Policy:

- I. Definitions
 - A. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Unit: An ambulance transport unit staffed with at least one paramedic provider who can provide advanced life support and transport.
 - B. Basic Life Support (BLS) Unit: An ambulance transport unit staffed with two EMT providers who can provide basic life support and transport.
 - C. Quick Response Vehicle Advanced Life Support (QRV): An ALS non-transport unit staffed with at least one paramedic and equipped in accordance to the minimum standards as directed by the county medical director. To assure that ACLS Procedures can be established without delay, the QRV will be manned by a Paramedic.
 - D. Quick Response Vehicle Basic Life Support (QRV BLS): A BLS non-transport unit staffed with at least one EMT and equipped in accordance to the minimum standards as directed by the county medical director. These units will be utilized for paid standby events.

- II. Applicability
 - A. The QRV(s) will only be deployed and utilized within Okaloosa County.
 - B. The QRV(s) will not be deployed or respond to mutual aid requests without the approval from an on duty EMS Lieutenant.
 - C. The QRV(s) will be dispatched by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's communications center and managed by the on duty EMS Lieutenant(s)

- III. General Deployment and Dispatching Practices
 - A. As a general practice, if a BLS ambulance has been assigned to a CHARLIE, DELTA, or ECHO response incident under the EMD CAD system, a QRV unit will also be assigned as the ALS asset.
 - B. If an ALS ambulance's estimated time of arrival (ETA) is greater than the QRV's ETA, the QRV can be considered to be dispatched for first response.

**OKALOOSA COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

- C. If a response is downgraded to an ALPHA response, the QRV will cancel and the BLS ambulance (if assigned) will continue the response. Should the BLS ambulance need ALS support, the crew can request the QRV to respond.

IV. Patient Care and Transfer of Care

- A. If in the best interest of patient care, provider safety, or any situation which requires the paramedic to perform ALS care the following actions shall occur:
 - 1. While the paramedic attends to the patient during transport, an EMT from the BLS unit will drive QRV to the receiving facility. If the patient's condition warrants a lights and sirens response to the facility, the EMT in the QRV shall drive to the facility with no lights and sirens.
 - 2. If the paramedic determines the need for an EMT to remain with the paramedic for patient care during transport to the receiving facility, the QRV vehicle shall be left at the scene. Before the departure of the ambulance, the paramedic and BLS ambulance crew should ensure the vehicle is left in a location that will not interfere with the incident scene, traffic, or any other foreseeable situation. The unit should be locked and secured.
 - 3. The crew will advise via the radio to Okaloosa County Sheriff's Communications that the QRV paramedic is onboard.
 - 4. The paramedic assigned to the QRV will coordinate with the on duty EMS Lieutenant to assure BLS ambulance units are positioned within geographical area of response zones to advantageously respond.
 - 5. QRV paramedic will ensure all patient interaction/documentation is complete and each BLS ambulance unit has charted interactions correctly and per established guidelines of OCEMS policy.
It is essential that Advanced Life Support assessments are properly documented prior to the report being completed and submitted.
 - 6. A QRV unit can relieve fire department resources on scene to allow responders to return to service. The QRV will then wait for the arrival of a transport unit.
 - 7. The QRV paramedic will monitor the EMS radio frequency to assure operational readiness and respond as necessary.

**OKALOOSA COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

8. The QRV paramedic will consult and work closely with the on duty EMS Lieutenant.

V. Accountability and Compliance

- A. The QRV crewmember will ensure the operational readiness of the assigned vehicle to include ensuring the vehicle is restocked, refueled, and cleaned at the end of the shift.
- B. The on duty EMS Lieutenant will ensure the QRV(s) assigned are strategically positioned throughout the county for optimal response.

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