

## **MEDICAL & OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS (FIRE/EMS)**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Staff will review department high-risk medical and operational protocols

In today's society, fire and EMS services are highly complex, one of the most difficult, if not the most difficult, occupation in society. The job is ever growing in complexity, yet never before in the history of man has the actions of emergency responders been held to a higher standard or higher level of scrutiny. These facts, coupled with diminishing budgets and resources, equate to serious problems for emergency services.

Emergency responders make split second decisions in innumerable scenarios, typically in volatile and fluid situations. All too often, these decisions lead to injury and civil liability. **Eliminating or reducing civil liability is quite simple; you must do your job right and be able to prove it.**

- We live in a very litigious society.
- Distrust in government services, including emergency services.
- People today are less willing to accept responsibility for their actions.
- Gradual erosion of governmental supplied immunities.

This week's lesson is intended to familiarize us with high-risk medical and operational protocols that if not accomplished properly could have detrimental consequences to patient care, limit our ability to respond, and/or pose significant liability. Proper training and protocol familiarization will enable us to respond and provide appropriate patient care, minimize patient discomfort and help to prevent further injury, and limit our liability when handling these incidents. In addition, it will aid us in proving that we have done our job right.

High-risk protocols include, but are not limited to:

*(Review each of these high-risk policies with employees/volunteers.)*

- Response
- Treatment within the New Mexico Scope of Practice

- Medical Director protocols
- Medical assessment
- Basic and advanced life support and equipment
- Administration of all medication
- Patient Confidentiality
- Advanced directive
- EMS bracelet
- Transport
- QA

## **POLICY**

*Discuss all relevant department high-risk medical and operational protocols.*

## **CLOSING**

- *Encourage discussion about these protocols and past incidents that caused or could have caused a serious injury or death.*
- *Discuss the need to stay informed of these medical and operational protocols.*