



HIGHLAND PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

POLICY MANUAL

Policy #9



DOCUMENTATION FOR DEAD ON ARRIVAL (DOA) RESPONSES

EFFECTIVE

01/JUN/90

REVISED

26/OCTOBER/2020

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To advise all personnel on the proper documentation for a Dead on Arrival (DOA) response.

2.0 Responsibility


- 2.1 It is the responsibility of all personnel to know and understand all aspects of this Policy.

3.0 Policy

- 3.1 If the paramedic at the scene determines that the patient does not meet the established Region X Criteria for Initiation of CPR, the patient may be turned over to the Coroner or Medical Examiner at the scene. If the person is deceased and exhibits one or more of the long-term indications of death specified, confirm and document per Northshore Highland Park Policy and notify the appropriate law enforcement agency having jurisdiction.
- 3.1.1 The circumstances for DOA determination include:
- 3.1.1.1 Decapitation
 - 3.1.1.2 Mummification and/or putrefaction
 - 3.1.1.3 Skin deterioration or body decomposition
 - 3.1.1.4 Transection
 - 3.1.1.5 Incineration
 - 3.1.1.6 Obvious Mortal Trauma
 - 3.1.1.7 Profound Dependent Lividity
 - 3.1.1.8 Presence of rigor mortis without profound hypothermia
- 3.2 On a DOA situation, an Ambulance Run Report will be made out as to the time the DOA was attended to by the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) crew and the circumstances surrounding the incident. Medical Control must be contacted and a cardiac rhythm strip must be printed for confirmation. The 3 Lead strip shall then be imported as an attachment to the report in ESO, the records management software.
- 3.3 A patient care report shall be completed for all such incidents and forwarded to the EMS Office.
- 3.4 This documentation is to be completed whether or not the body is transported.
- 3.5 Where a death is suspicious, providers shall follow the Region X Questionable Death Policy.

4.0 Reference

- 4.1 Highland Park Fire Department
- 4.2 Region X EMS Standard Operating Procedures
- 4.3 Northshore Highland Park Hospital Policy ADM 20
- 4.4 Region X EMS Trauma Policy and Procedure Manual

Approved:  Fire Chief