

PARMA FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TITLE: Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Patients

S.O.P. 7-011

DATE: 10/24/08

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PURPOSE: To standardize the handling of patients known to have Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), and reduce exposure to vehicle emissions at area hospitals.

SCOPE: This procedure shall be utilized by all PFD personnel for any patient known or claiming to have MCS including individuals claiming to be intolerant of diesel fumes.

- GENERAL INFO**
1. MCS is a recognized medical condition characterized by extreme allergic reactions to environmental triggers, usually brought on by exposure to chemicals or toxins. This disease is debilitating and potentially life threatening.
 2. Diesel exhaust has been shown to contain numerous toxic compounds including carcinogens and carbon monoxide. Repeated exposures can cause cancer, lung disease, cardiac problems and other conditions.

PROCEDURE: I. Vehicle emissions:

A. The exposure to diesel fumes is to be minimized while loading and off loading the patient.

1. The engine shall be shut down while moving the patient into transport vehicle at the scene and while off-loading the patient at the hospital.

a. Medic Unit should be parked off of the roadway when possible to prevent visibility issues when emergency lights will be turned off.

2. The patient compartment ventilation fan is to be on while the patient is in the unit.

3. Medic Units parked under the canopy at receiving hospitals will have their engines off while parked there. If absolutely necessary to leave vehicle running due to weather (snow, ice, cold, heat...) the unit shall be pulled away from the entry doors as far as necessary to prevent exhaust fumes from entering the building.

II. Receiving hospital:

A. Otherwise stable patient- Transport to Southwest Hospital

B. Patient in extremis- transport to the closest, most appropriate hospital

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PROCEDURE:

III. Treatment:

- A. Due to patients extreme reaction to present allergens as well as the possibility of new allergens at any time, treatment is to be withheld unless absolutely necessary.
- B. No medications are to be administered unless patient is in extremis, i.e. cardiac meds for full arrest.
- C. Use non- latex gloves for all patient contact.
- D. Patient may provide information concerning how to avoid causing additional injury or illness. PFD personnel will consider this information while providing treatment and call Southwest Hospital for decision assistance regarding MCS when feasible.

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