

## Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

<b>Title: Mutual Aid Policy</b>	<b>Effective Date: September 1990</b> <b>Page: 1 of 2</b>
<b>Policy #1990-1</b>	<b>Revised: May 2004</b>

<b>Policy:</b>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to outline the means by which mutual aid is utilized throughout the eight county region of Western New York. It is designed to direct ambulance services, both paid and volunteer, in the event that multiple county services need to utilize for a mass casualty incident.</p> <p>In the event that multiple county services need to be utilized for a mass casualty incident the Incident Commander at the disaster scene will remain in the command but will request and utilize resources as needed from the closest neighboring county.</p> <p>EMS services have the responsibility to routinely provide the type and level of service authorized and/or expected by the community in a timely and reliable manner (e.g. pediatric ALS, etc.). Every patient should have the opportunity to receive the most appropriate level of prehospital care readily available in that community. Therefore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Mutual Aid requests must be made with the intent of having the closest (generally the unit with the shortest response time to the patient) available EMS unit respond to a patient's medical need, at a time when the resources of the requesting agency are temporarily unavailable, have been expended or exceeded.</li> <li>b. The closest, most medically appropriate agency (with regard to availability and level of certification) should be contacted for mutual aid regardless of whether that agency is commercial, volunteer or municipal.</li> <li>c. The decision to request mutual aid from an EMS agency should be based solely upon the availability of the mutual aid services and the medical needs of the patient, regardless of the patient's ability or willingness to pay for such services.</li> </ol>
<b>Procedure:</b>	<p>The Incident Commander will contact radio dispatch, notifying them of additional needs. Dispatch will contact the closest neighboring counties. That county's dispatch will then determine what services are the closest available to be dispatched to the scene. The requested mutual aid companies will place themselves under the direction of the Incident Commander and his designated officers.</p> <p>Patients will be transported to the nearest appropriate hospital (without</p>

	exceeding its capacity) as directed by the Incident Commander or his designated officer.
<b>Reference:</b>	NYS DOH Bureau of EMS Policy Statements 95-04 (EMS Mutual Aid), 01-02 (EMS Use of the Incident Command System), and Western Regional EMS ALS Protocols