Purpose:

This policy presents the guidelines for patient safety to be utilized during patient care.

Policy:

1. Safety at Scene

   Care should be taken at all times to protect patients from the same general scene hazards that are presented to ECP's.

2. Lifting and Movement of Patients

   - The safety of the patient should be considered while lifting and moving by:

   - Assure adequate manpower is present during patient movement
   - Using extreme caution during movement over icy or uneven terrain.
   - Making certain that persons involved in the movement of the patient understand where and how the patient is to be moved.
   - Making sure that the path of movement is clear of obstructions.

3. Lifting and Moving Equipment

   Equipment such as stair-chairs, doty belt, and lifting tarps are provided for both ECP and patient safety and are to be used when appropriate. Household items
present in a patient house, such as chairs & blankets, should not be utilized for patient movement.

4. Use of Cot

- When possible a person should be assigned to steady the cot during patient placement on the cot.
- When possible, the patient should be secured to the cot with all of the straps and shoulder straps prior to movement.
- Ensure that the safety latch is secured behind the floor “hook” prior to raising the carriage during patient loading.
- Avoid rolling the cot in a sideways fashion.
- Assure adequate manpower is present during lifting of cot to the raised position.
- Do not exceed the maximum weight load of the cot.

5. Use of Seatbelts / Airbags

During transports all patients transported on the cot should be restrained to the cot using all of the straps and shoulder straps unless patient care requires their removal.

If a patient is less than 40 lbs, it is recommended they be restrained in the Pedi Mate plus or Neo Mate device which is attached to the cot.

Patients transported in the rear of the ambulance who are not placed on the stretcher should be secured in a seat using the lap belts or shoulder harness present.