Purpose:

The service will insure usage of vehicle safety restraints by EMS personnel, passengers and patients when any service vehicles are in use.

Policy:

1. General concern will be given at all times to the hazardous nature of responding to emergency calls. The risk to EMS personnel as well as the general public is increased by the use of lights and sirens in the response to an emergency call.

2. Prior to response, all vehicle doors, loose equipment and other items carried on the emergency vehicle are to be properly stowed, secured and all doors closed to insure safe transport to the emergency scene. All persons riding in the vehicle are to be secured in their seats with seat belts fastened prior to vehicle movement.

3. Prior to patient transport, all vehicle doors, loose equipment and other items are to be properly stowed, secured and all doors closed. Any equipment necessary for patient care should be secured if possible. The driver will be secured in his/her seat with the seat belt fastened. The patient attendant will be seated and secured with their seat belt in the rear compartment unless patient care requires otherwise. The patient will be secured to the ambulance cot with safety restraints, as patient care permits. The patient will be secured to the ambulance cot with safety restraints, including shoulder straps, as patient care permits. If shoulder restraints are not used, the reason is to be
documented within the patient care report. Pediatric patients being transported in a secured car seat or devices such as the Pedi-mate system will not require the use of shoulder straps. Report documentation should indicate the restraint system used for the pediatric patient.

4. Family, friends and patients who are transported in the front passenger seat of the ambulance must be secured using the lap/shoulder belt present at all times during ambulance movement.

5. Refer to DMV.ORG for the most recent updates on child car seat laws for children passengers.

6. It is ideal to have any non-patient riders secured in the front passenger compartment. If it becomes necessary for a non-patient rider to be in the back of the ambulance, they must be secured with available safety restraints prior to transport.

7. An emergency situation may supersede the above provisions.