



SPECIAL ORDER



Kenneth B. Ellerbe
Fire & EMS Chief

Series	Number	Originating Unit	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2013	67	OFC	July 9, 2013	N/A

Subject:

Transporting Motorized Wheel Chairs

There are some in our community that require the use of a motorized wheelchair. These wheelchairs can weigh hundreds of pounds and can be extremely difficult to transport to the hospital. In an effort to assist our patients, motorized wheelchairs are currently being transported to hospitals in the back of the EMS units. This practice is unsafe for our members and shall be discontinued immediately.

The Department has identified Engine Company 4 and Engine Company 8 as the companies that will have an assigned CSU to transport motorized wheelchairs. Both CSU units shall have a chair lift attached to their hitch to transport patient wheelchairs.

The following procedure will be followed to transport motorized wheelchairs by DCFEMS:

1. A crew arrives on the scene to determine whether the motorized wheelchair cannot be left secured at the incident location (i.e. patient's home, health care facility, etc.).
2. The OIC or ACIC will notify Communications to request a motorized wheelchair transport. The OUC will dispatch the closest available EMS Supervisor and Air Unit for the wheelchair transport. If both Air Units are unavailable, the responding EMS Supervisor will contact the DFC-Operations to identify another unit to transport the wheelchair to the patient.
3. The Air Unit technician, with their assigned CSU, will be dispatched to the location, load the wheelchair, and transport it to the patient's hospital.

It should be noted that on scene units shall not delay transport while awaiting the arrival of the EMS Supervisor and/or CSU. If a delay in wheelchair transportation occurs, units shall notify the OUC of the situation and the location of the wheelchair. The OUC will relay this information to the dispatched EMS Supervisor and CSU.


Kenneth B. Ellerbe
Fire & EMS Chief