



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS

SOP 1-91 (Formerly 1-92)

Effective: 12/22/2022 Review: 06/22/2023 Replaces: 08/18/2022

1-91 TACTICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPORT (TEMS)

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

- [1-92 Special Weapons and Tactics \(Formerly 6-8\) \(Currently Specialized Tactical Units\)](#)
- [2-3 Firearms and Ammunition Authorization](#)
- [3-31 Physical Fitness Assessment](#)

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

1-91-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the requirements for providing medical interventions that protect the health and safety of all people through Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) Unit operations.

1-91-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Albuquerque Police Department (Department) to use TEMS Unit personnel during critical incidents where a threat to life is present.

N/A 1-91-3 Definitions

None

7 1-91-4 Rules and Responsibilities

A. Chain of Command and Composition

1. The TEMS Unit shall be comprised of a medical director/physician, one supervisor, and EMT-B or above certified officers.

- a. TEMS Unit sworn personnel may work as a collateral duty officer in the TEMS Unit based on the needs of the Department.



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2. Medical Director

- a. The Medical Director for the TEMS Unit shall:
 - i. Be a board-certified emergency medicine physician who has completed an Emergency Medicine residency training program and fellowship;
 - ii. Respond to call-outs;
 - iii. Attend training days when available
 - iv. Be available for direction either in-person or over a Department-issued cellular telephone; and
 - v. Provide both direct and indirect care while functioning as the onsite Medical Control and Emergency Physician (MCEP).
 - 1. When working as the MCEP, the Medical Director shall coordinate with local emergency medical services (EMS) and fire services personnel to provide safe and effective care to those individuals that are injured during tactical activations.

3. TEMS Unit sworn personnel shall:

- a. At a minimum, maintain a current EMT-B license;
- b. Maintain a current State of New Mexico Law Enforcement Instructor Certification;
- c. Follow Bernalillo County EMS protocols; and
- d. Meet the requirements of the Medical Director.

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B. Training

1. TEMS Unit sworn personnel shall:

- a. Attend monthly, specialized training or any other training as directed by the Division Commander; and
- b. Once a year, participate in the Department-mandated physical fitness assessment to ensure they meet the minimum performance requirements, as outlined in SOP Physical Fitness Assessment (refer to SOP Physical Fitness Assessment for sanction classifications and additional duties).
 - i. TEMS Unit sworn personnel shall be allowed to re-test within one (1) month of failing a physical fitness assessment.
 - ii. If TEMS Unit sworn personnel do not pass the physical fitness assessment within one (1) month of re-testing, they shall be removed from the TEMS Unit, unless there is a documented injury.

N/A

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C. Uniforms

- 1. The TEMS Unit Commander shall determine the appropriate uniform for TEMS Unit personnel.



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2. Collateral TEMS Unit sworn personnel shall wear the uniform designated for their regular assignment when not acting in a TEMS Unit capacity, unless their immediate supervisor approves of them wearing the TEMS Unit uniform.

D. TEMS Unit Sworn Personnel Responsibilities

1. TEMS Unit sworn personnel shall abide by the rules set forth in this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).
 - a. Any violation of the rules shall result in disciplinary action and/or removal from the TEMS Unit.
2. TEMS Unit sworn personnel shall not:
 - a. Be the primary responding officer for a call for service when medical interventions, beyond basic assessments of life, are performed and criminal charges are present, so that criminal investigations are not compromised by medical privacy laws;
 - i. When two (2) TEMS Unit officers are the only officers on scene, one (1) may retain the role of primary officer when the situation allows.
 - b. Be used as part of the entry team during tactical activations or as supplemental personnel during tactical activations; or
 - c. Discuss mission assignment details with Department personnel who are not assigned to the TEMS Unit beyond what is required to provide adequate medical care for patients.
 - i. The information as defined in this section relate to information, tactics or processes used to locate, apprehend, identify, investigate, or otherwise obtain information related to the incident, location, or individuals being investigated.

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