

OBJECTIVE: To provide guidelines in for patient safety in the areas of patient movement, carrying devices and transport.

413.01 PATIENT MOVEMENT

Whenever a patient must be moved, whether to prepare for transport, remove a patient from a dangerous or hazardous environment or to facilitate further treatment, all precautions must be taken to prevent further injury to the patient and any rescue personnel.

- 1.1 Any patient with suspected C spine injuries will be completely immobilized Before being extricated from a vehicle or moved if injury not MVA related. This will including using a C-Collar, XP-1/Speedboard/KED, back board and head immobilization device if extrication is necessary.
- 1.2 Any patient with suspected limb fractures will have the affected limb splinted and immobilized before movement according to approved treatment protocols and guidelines. This may involve the use of rigid splints, traction splints, air splints, pillow splints and the Reel Splint.
- 1.3 All patients will be secured to any backboard, stretcher or Stair Chair before movement begins.
- 1.4 All Fire Department Personnel must be thoroughly familiar with the operations of all carrying devices including backboards, scoop stretchers, stair chairs, lift seats, and the Stryker stretchers.
- 1.5 When operating the stretcher, a minimum of two personnel is required to lift a patient. Up to 4 personnel should be used to lift any patient whose weight is over 175-200 lbs. Proper lifting technique, which involves bending the knees and keeping the spine straight, must be used each and every time.

413.02 PATIENT SAFETY IN THE MEDIC UNIT

Each patient who needs to be transported to a receiving hospital in a Carrollton Fire Department Medic unit must be cared for along these guidelines:

- 2.1 If lying down, the patient must be securely strapped on the stretcher and the stretcher must be locked into position inside the Medic.
- 2.2 If in a sitting position, the patient must be wearing a seat belt and remain seated while the vehicle is moving.

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Issued: 02/04
Revised; 04/04
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- 2.3 All portable equipment must be secured in place before vehicle movement to ensure the both patient and Fire Department personnel protection from possible projectiles should the vehicle be involved in an accident.