

**RACINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

SUBJECT: RASO SWAT Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS)		PROCEDURE: 800.200	
DATE ISSUED: 12/08/14	EFFECTIVE DATE: same	CANCELS:	PAGE: 1 OF 5

PURPOSE:

This policy will define the purpose of the Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) section of the SWAT Team and responsibilities for those providing TEMS, and discuss procedures that TEMS Operators will operate under.

POLICY:

The primary mission of the Racine County TEMS section of the SWAT Team is to provide care to the SWAT Team utilizing the proven concept of TECC (Tactical Emergency Casualty Care) under this premise the TEMS Officers provide care in three distinct environments. 1. Direct Threat Care/Care Under Fire. 2. Indirect Threat Care/Tactical Field Care. 3. Tactical Evacuation/Casualty Extrication. The ultimate goal of this standard is to decrease preventable deaths at the point of injury/wounding.

Racine County SWAT Team TEMS Operators will also conduct medical threat assessments to assist in the mission planning, act as the liaison with local EMS providers and receiving medical facilities, provide continuous hazardous vulnerability medical assessments, and provide additional medical assistance as needed during operations and training.

DEFINITIONS:

As used in this document, the following definitions shall apply:

Basic Life Support – “Basic Life Support (BLS) Services” means a basic level of pre-hospital and inter-hospital emergency care and non-emergency medical care that includes airway management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), control of shock and bleeding and splinting of fractures, as outlined in the Basic Life Support national curriculum of the United States Department of Transportation and any modifications to that curriculum specified in rules adopted by the Department pursuant to this act. That care shall be initiated where authorized by the TEMS Medical Director.

Advanced Life Support – “Advanced Life Support (ALS) Services” means an advanced level of pre-hospital and inter-hospital emergency care and non-emergency medical care that includes basic life support care, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, electrocardiography, intravenous therapy, administration of medications, drugs and solutions, use of adjunctive medical devices, trauma care, and other authorized techniques and procedures, as outlined in the Advanced Life Support national curriculum of the United States Department of Transportation and any modifications to that curriculum specified in rules adopted by the Department pursuant to this act. That care shall be initiated as authorized by the TEMS Medical Director.

Hot Zone – That area in which gunfire may occur and as a result injury may result to those exposed in this area. This is usually within the Inner Perimeter.

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Aurora South Region EMS System Guidelines – These protocols have been approved by the Medical Directors of the Aurora Health Care South Market EMS System. Due to the large geographical area and a significant number of pre-hospital providers, an EMS Medical Director has been established from each Aurora Hospital in the South Market. Through the collaboration of these emergency physicians; these protocols have been approved and will be utilized as pre-hospital orders for the delivery of patient care.

Note: Medical Director for the Racine County TEMS (Dr. Steven Andrews) has authorized all Racine County TEMS Operators the ability perform the above skills listed in the Medical Protocols individually, not requiring a second TEMS operator to be present.

Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan – a standardized plan that sets forth the continuous process of improving the level of care provided by the TEMS section of the S.W.A.T. Team. The plan predetermines the types of calls that will be monitored and the frequency that they are reviewed by the Medical Director.

PROCEDURE:

Emergency Medical Treatment Procedures:

- I. Racine County TEMS staff will follow and operate under the Aurora South EMS System guidelines, including procedures, medications and other appropriate policies. Due to the nature of the tactical EMS environment Racine County TEMS operators will be able to provide, with training and approval, advanced skills.

The Racine County TEMS Medical Director will meet with the Racine County Sheriff's Office TEMS Team Leader on a routine basis to review protocols and procedures and evaluate them for any updates and/or changes. The SWAT Team Commander shall be notified by the TEMS Team Leader of all changes to medical protocols.

- II. TEMS Operators assigned to the Racine County SWAT Team will provide the following services:
 - A. Medical care and rehabilitative services will be provided to members of the Racine County Sheriff's Office staff.

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- B. Medical care and rehabilitative services will be provided to the general public during law enforcement events based on safety issues and availability of staff.
- C. Provide liaison with local EMS/Fire and hospital staff to coordinate services
- D. Assist the Incident Commander as needed.
- E. Provide continued advanced life support, when initiated by TEMS, to the hospital or when care is transferred to an equal or higher level of care.
- F. Provide tactical liaison training for area Racine County Departments.

III. When Racine County SWAT TEMS Operators are not available the SWAT Commander will ensure Advanced Life Support coverage is provided to the Command Post by the closest available Racine County Fire Departments. This can be done via coordination with the dispatch center.

Operational Guidelines

Pre-Deployment

- I. During pre-deployment TEMS Operators will assist the SWAT Team Commander with medical safety assessments, administrative duties, medical training, and general medical information/advice.
- II. The TEMS Operators will perform pre-deployment functions, which include but are not limited to the following:
 - A. Maintain health records and history for all SWAT Operators. The SWAT Commander will keep this information.
 - B. Maintain emergency health forms on all active SWAT Operators including:
 - 1. Blood Type
 - 2. Allergies
 - 3. Medical history
 - 4. Physician-specialist preference
 - 5. Medicine
 - 6. Other as required.
 - C. Assist in maintaining safety procedures during training.
 - D. Provide medical and rehabilitation care during training.
 - E. Check medical and response equipment at monthly training.

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Deployment

- I. TEMS Operators assigned to the Racine County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team will provide, but not limited to the following:
 - A. TEMS Team Leader or designee will complete the Medical Threat Assessment worksheet and communicate its results to the SWAT Team Commander.
 - B. Assist the tactical commander in the evaluation and medical implication of the tactical situation.
 - C. Continually reassess medical threat assessment as the situation develops. Relay any significant changes to SWAT commander. Make medical plan changes as medical threat evolves.
 - D. Provide medical and rehabilitation care during law enforcement operations.
 - E. Continually reassess the medical conditions of Racine County Sheriff's Office staff providing appropriate treatment and resources. Advise the SWAT Team Commander of any significant concerns.
 - F. Coordinate with the SWAT Commander in developing plans for triage, treatment, and transport of injured law enforcement and civilians involved in a law enforcement incident.

Tactical Drug Administration

- I. TEMS Operators assigned to the Racine County Sheriff's Office may administer the following medications:
 - A. All drugs authorized in the Aurora South EMS system policies and procedures.
 - B. TEMS operators will maintain a log of medicine/drugs administered to SWAT Personnel.

SELECTION PROCESS

- I. The Racine County Sheriff's Office SWAT Team will select members of the TEMS section from a valid selection list created through application, interview, and testing. Criteria for selection will be based on:
 - A. Time in service
 - B. Satisfactory performance in present and previous job assignments
 - C. Satisfactory physical fitness levels
 - D. Satisfactory performance in necessary tactical emergency medical skills

Testing will consist of TEMS specific and validated skills. Team recommendations will be forwarded to the Sheriff for approval. Once appointed, all operational TEMS

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Operators, regardless of rank or position, must maintain acceptable standards of performance. A TEMS Operator may voluntarily withdraw from the unit at any time, for any reason. A TEMS Operator may be removed from the team, without cause, when deemed necessary for the good of the team, by a consensus of the team leadership and approval of the Sheriff.

TRAINING STANDARDS

- I. The TEMS section will conduct a reasonable amount of training each month to maintain proficiency in the tactics and equipment that are utilized by the team. Training will be performance oriented and TEMS task specific. Failure to meet minimum skill competency levels will result in remedial training. Continued failure to meet minimum skill competency levels will be dealt with as a failure to meet minimum standards.

EQUIPMENT STANDARD

- I. The RASO TEMS section will provide team members with at least the following safety equipment:
 1. Ballistic Helmet
 2. Complete coverage ballistic vest

TEMS Operators, to whom any item of equipment is issued, are responsible for the care and maintenance of the equipment. Failure to maintain the equipment in full mission readiness will be viewed as a failure to meet minimum standards.