

Position Statement for Lights and Siren Use in VT EMS District #5

Using lights and sirens to a scene is a potentially hazardous undertaking that only offers a small amount of time savings. Until we are able to implement a priority dispatching system lights and sirens should still be used in life threatening or time critical cases when travelling to a 911 call.

Once EMS personnel arrive on a scene there should be less frequent use of lights and sirens. EMS personnel will obviously have more information about the patients' condition and be able to initiate treatment. Lights and sirens should still be used for cardiac arrest (without a paramedic), STEMI, stroke alert, major trauma, unstable vitals or airway problems that are not responding to interventions.

This position statement is not punitive nor is it in response to any specific call. This is merely an attempt to safely care for our patients and our selves. This is also in accordance with national standards regarding lights and siren use.

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