

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

A-20.1 SCHOOL BUS INCIDENT

Purpose:

This policy governs the handling of school bus crashes/incidents involving the presence of minors. IT is meant to be implemented by EMS personnel in conjunction with Region 5's and individual System's policies, including mass casualties.

Definition:

The school bus is defined as a Type A, B, C, or D classification. For the purpose of this policy, school bus will include all buses, vans and vehicles authorized by the school for transporting children/students.

Procedure:

Determine the category of the crash/incident:

- Category I bus crash/incident - significant injuries present in one or more children/students or where the mechanism of injury is such that could reasonably be expected to cause significant injuries.
- Category II bus crash/incident - minor injuries only, present in one or more children/students and where the mechanism of injury is not to reasonably expect significant injuries. Uninjured children/students also present.
- Category III bus crash/incident - no injuries present in any children/students and no significant mechanism of injury present.

Follow appropriate policy:

- If Category I crash/incident:
 - Follow usual multiple victim and disaster preparedness policies and transport all children/students to the hospital.
- If Category II or Category III crash/incident:
 - Implement this policy.
- Contact Medical Control and advise of Category II or Category III bus crash/incident:
 - The medical control physician will determine if the children/students can be discharged at the scene.
 - Utilize the Incident Command System for managing the scene.
- Injured children/students by exam and/or complaint are treated and transported as deemed necessary and appropriate by EMS personnel or at the request of the child/student.
- Children/Students with disabilities, communication difficulties, or special needs will be transported to the hospital for evaluation on all Category I or Category II bus crash/incident.
- EMS providers will retain care of children/students not transported to the hospital until released to parent/legal guardian or school officials.
 - Ask for law enforcement assistance in contacting school officials.
 - EMS providers may escort the bus, if operable, back to school of origin or other appropriate destination for transfer of custody.
- Medical control, after consulting with scene personnel, will discharge the uninjured children to the care of the ambulance service who will then release the children to parents/legal guardians or school officials.

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

A-20.1 SCHOOL BUS INCIDENT (continued)

- School administrator/designee will sign the log sheet indicating acceptance of the responsibility for the children/students after medical clearance by the EMS personnel finding NO evidence of injury.
 - The school representative will follow their policies for informing parents/legal guardians of the crash/incident.
- Any child/student having reached the age of 18, or older and any adult non-student present on the bus will initial the log sheet adjacent to their name and address when in agreement that they have suffered no injury and are not requesting medical care and/or transport to the hospital.
- Complete one PCR in addition to the School Bus Incident Form.
- This policy addresses discharge disposition of uninjured children/students only. Thus, no release/AMA signatures are necessary. An isolated abrasion/superficial wound can be regarded as uninjured should the EMS personnel, Medical Control, and the child/student all concur.
- This policy is also applicable for school/student incidents not involving a bus if deemed appropriate by the responding EMS Agency and evaluated and executed in a like manner.