

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Emergency Medical Helicopters

Report Date: May 2011

Response by: Lisa Abebe Title: Director, Central Coast Region

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 2 and 12
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered 7 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 9/19/11 Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached 2

CALSTAR VII

Emergency Medical Helicopters

SLO Grand Jury 2010-2011

Findings:

2. Both County emergency medical helicopter operators have equipment and procedures enabling them to contact flight crews for ETA's and provide Med-Com with ETA's within three (3) minutes.

CALSTAR is toned out by CAL FIRE when a request is placed for a helicopter. Our pilot responds with our availability and ETA within 1 min. This information is relayed from CAL FIRE to Med-Comm via CAD system. If we are in flight, the same process is in place. We are able to hear and respond on radio while en flight.

12. Policy 119 does not give paramedics or flight nurses any discretion to consult with an available and more medically-qualified authority and to obtain their authorization to deviate from Policy 119 based on the particular circumstances of a case.

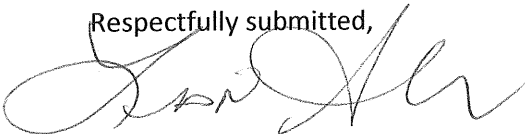
CALSTAR agrees with this finding.

Recommendations:

7. EMSA should consider revising Policy 119 to allow ground ambulance paramedics or flight nurses discretion to deviate from time and need criteria after consultation with, and approval of, the base station physician so that strict adherence to Policy 119 does not preclude appropriate patient care in unique situations.

This recommendation is out of my sphere of influence. It will need to be opened for change by the EMSA.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Abeloe RN

Regional Director, Central Coast

CALSTAR VII