

APPROVED: Signature On File In EMS Office  
Executive Director

Signature On File In EMS Office  
Medical Director

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SUPERSEDES:

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**ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICE AREAS FOR TRAUMA CENTERS**

I. **AUTHORITY**

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1798.162, 1798.163  
California Code of Regulations Section 100255.

II. **DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Service area" means that geographic area defined by the local EMS agency in its trauma care system plan as the area served by a designated trauma center.
- B. "Trauma Center" or "designated trauma center" means a licensed hospital, accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, which has been designated as a Level I, II, III, or IV trauma center and/or Level I or II pediatric trauma center by the local EMS agency, in accordance with California Trauma Care System Regulations.

III. **PURPOSE**

To establish service areas for trauma centers serving the Mountain Valley EMS system.

IV. **POLICY**

- A. To provide optimal care for major trauma patients, care will be regionalized through the designation of Level II trauma centers and preferential triage of major trauma patients to those centers. In addition, Level III and Level IV trauma centers will be designated, when identified, for care of patients who are distant from the Level II trauma centers.
- B. Pediatric patients (less than 14 years old.) meeting pediatric trauma triage criteria will be transported directly to the pediatric trauma center (e.g., UC Davis, Children's Hospital of Oakland), in accordance with Policy #553.25.
- C. Patients meeting trauma triage criteria shall be transported directly to the Level II trauma center, in accordance with Policy #553.25.
- D. While the rotational schedule is the preferred procedure for determining the appropriate receiving trauma center, efforts should be made to avoid overwhelming a single facility. Patient flow shall be conducted in accordance with Policy #553.25(F).