

SUBJECT: D.O.A. (DEAD ON ARRIVAL)**SECTION:** 302.16**REVISED:** OCTOBER 17, 2003**PAGE(S):** 1

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the proper handling of a D.O.A. (Dead On Arrival) patient and the preservation of the scene until the police department arrives.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the fire department once an irreversible death has occurred that preservation of the scene shall be maintained until the police department arrives.

PROCEDURE

- A. Upon Arrival
 1. Determine that an irreversible state of death exists according to the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati Determination of Death Protocol.
 2. Request Police Department response if not already responding.
- B. Operations
 1. Secure the area.
 - a. Personnel shall treat the body of a deceased patient with care and dignity regardless of the patient's age, gender, race, or sexual orientation or the circumstances surrounding the death.
 - b. Do not disturb the scene.
 - c. Do not allow unauthorized persons in the area.
 - d. Limit the number of emergency personnel on the scene.
 - e. Wait for relief from Police Department or the Coroner.
 2. Family members and friends shall be treated with the utmost tact and sensitivity. Check with family to determine if further assistance is necessary.
 3. Personnel should endeavor to return their company or unit in service as soon as possible.
 4. It shall be the general policy of the fire department to decline transporting the body of a deceased individual unless special circumstances warrant.