



# County of Santa Clara Emergency Medical Services System

Policy #211:  
AST and Medical Task Force Leaders

## AMBULANCE STRIKE TEAM & MEDICAL TASK FORCE LEADERS

**Effective:** October 31, 2011  
**Replaces:** January 22, 2008  
**Review:** July 1, 2014

**Resources:**  
None

### I. Purpose

To identify minimum qualifications for Ambulance Strike Team (AST) and Medical Task Force Leaders in the County of Santa Clara and to promote consistency and competency in the management of prehospital care operations in-county and when requested for mutual aid. This policy does not preclude the employer from requiring additional standards.

### II. Initial Qualifications

- A. An individual must satisfy all the following requirements prior to serving as an AST and Medical Task Force Leader:
1. Minimum of three (3) years field experience in the provision of emergency medical/prehospital care services.
  2. Must be a Credentialed Santa Clara County EMS Field Supervisor or EMS Duty Chief.
  3. Paramedic licensure/accreditation in good standing with the EMS Agency.
  4. No pending disciplinary actions against accreditation, licensure, or employment.
  5. Successful completion of an AST Leader course or equivalent.

### III. Duties and Responsibilities

- A. The AST and Medical Task Force Leader is responsible for:

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1. Overseeing the safety and condition of the team, personnel, and associated equipment.
2. Coordinating the movement of the team traveling to and returning from the incident.
3. Supervising the operational deployment of the team at the incident, as directed by the on-scene incident command system (ICS) Division/Group Supervisor, or other member of the incident management team.
4. Maintaining familiarity with team operations, including assembling, responding, and directing the actions of the assigned units, keeping the team accounted for at all times.
5. Contacting the appropriate incident personnel with problems encountered on the incident, including mechanical, operational, and/or logistical.
6. Ensuring vehicles have adequate communications capability.
7. Maintaining positive public relations during the incident (in coordination with the public information officer (PIO)).
8. Prior to deployment, determining mission duration, special circumstances, staging area and contact information.
9. Ensuring completion and submission of ICS documents as appropriate.