

South Metro Fire Department
Clinical Policies and Procedures

Title: Patient Safety Restraints (seat belts)
Effective Date: December 15, 2015
Authorized By: Keith Wesley, MD Medical Director
Standard: Patient Care and Transport
Policy: It is the policy of South Metro Fire that appropriate mechanical safety restraints will be used during transport of a patient, family members, or other healthcare providers.

I. **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide the specific steps that will be taken to ensure the safety of all persons transported in the ambulance.

II. **Definition**

A. **Safety Mechanical Restraints**: Defined as stretcher belt straps, side rails, seat belts, or any device used to secure and protect the patient and all other occupants during their movement on specific EMS equipment and while in the ambulance. Their primary purpose is to secure and protect all occupants from possible injury while the patient is being moved on backboards, stair chairs, portable stretchers, ambulance stretchers, and seats in the ambulance.

III. **Procedure**

- A. Patients transported on the ambulance stretcher will have all mechanical safety restraints securely fastened prior to lifting or moving.
- B. Stretcher shoulder straps will be used on all patients affixed directly to the stretcher before transport is begun.
- C. Patients transported supine on the ambulance squad bench shall be placed first on the backboard or other type of portable stretcher with all straps securely fastened, and then have at least two seat belts from under the squad bench securely fastened over them.
- D. Patients and all other occupants transported either on the bench seat or passenger seat shall have all seat belts fastened prior to movement of the ambulance.
- E. Infants and children shall be transported in accordance with the Pediatric Transport policy.
- F. All patients carried or moved on any device intended to lift or move patients (e.g., backboard, folding stretcher, stair chair) will have all safety straps secured prior to moving.

G. **Exception.**

1. The above will be followed unless it can be reasonably determined that such mechanical safety restraints significantly compromise the care or safety of the patient or the ability of other healthcare providers to effectively care for the patient.
2. There are no exceptions for family members.

Previous Reviews/Revisions:

12/02, 11/04, 01/06, 12/09, 08/13, 04/14