
 <p>Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board</p>	<b>SECTION:</b> Land Ambulance
	<b>POLICY TITLE:</b> Safe Vehicle Operations
<b>ORIGINAL DATE:</b> May, 2001	<b>POLICY AREA:</b> Vehicle, Equipment & Facilities
<b>REVISION DATE:</b> August, 2016	<b>POLICY NO:</b> LA – 6.0
<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE:</b> September, 2019	<b>APPROVED BY:</b> 

## Policy

The Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) ensures that when operating Ambulance vehicles, it complies with the processes described in the:

- a) *Ambulance Act R.S.O. 1990, Chapter A19, as amended;*
- b) *Ontario Regulation 257/00, as amended;*
- c) *Patient Care and Transportation Standards, as amended;*
- d) *Ontario Ambulance Documentation Standards, as amended; and*
- e) *Highway Traffic Act, as amended.*

## Procedure

1. In order to ensure that Land Ambulance vehicles are operated in a safe manner, the following are strictly adhered to:
  - a) every Paramedic employed by the RRDSSAB must comply with the direction and instruction issued by the Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) with respect to the assignment of calls;
  - b) every movement of the Ambulance or Emergency Response Vehicle is reported to the Communication Officer;
  - c) any vehicle removed from or re-entering services is reported to the Communication Officer;
  - d) vehicles cannot be used for purposes other than the provision of Land Ambulance services, unless approved by the Chief of Paramedic Services (PS);

- e) Ambulances which are not in service are driven only if a sign bearing the phrase *"not in service"* is displayed at the front and back of the vehicle;
- f) vehicle numbers must be clearly displayed in the lower left corner of the windshield and the left side of the rear of the vehicle;
- g) all vehicles are marked with the "Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board" logo;
- h) all Paramedics and Emergency Medical Attendants responding to calls must meet the qualifications of employment established by the *Ambulance Act*, and operate the Ambulance vehicles in accordance with the *Highway Traffic Act*, as it relates to the care & operation of an Ambulance and Emergency Response Vehicle;
- i) all Paramedics and Emergency Medical Attendants must hold a valid driver's license authorizing them to operate an Ambulance vehicle;
- j) all Paramedics and Emergency Medical Attendants must have in their possession their Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care (MoHLTC) issued *Identification Card (ID Card)*, *Driver's License* and appropriate travel documents at all times while on duty;
- k) no Paramedics and Emergency Medical Attendants will report for duty, nor while on duty, consume, take or have in his/her possession, any liquor or drug which may impair his/her ability to function in the capacity of his/her employment;
- l) no Paramedics and Emergency Medical Attendants will smoke any tobacco or any other substance, while in an Ambulance or Emergency Response Vehicle;
- m) the main VHF radio and satellite radio must remain on while the Ambulance or Emergency Response Vehicle is in operation;
- n) all Paramedics and Emergency Medical Attendants must make every effort to ensure that all passengers and patients are secure by means of a seat belt, or stretcher- or incubator-belting system, and that any stretcher and/or incubator is firmly secured in the vehicle;
- o) all Paramedics and Emergency Medical Attendants must make every effort, prior to transport, to ensure that all equipment is

secured within designated compartments, or secured by means of seat belts, or securing straps to protect passengers and patients.

- p) all Paramedics adhere to the safety of patients being transported in Ambulance vehicles, and for the safety of citizens sharing the roadways, per *Policy LA-6.6: Excessive Speed/Emergency Warning Systems*;
- q) collision reporting is completed, in accordance with the *Ontario Ambulance Documentation Standards* and *RRDSSAB Policy LA-1.14: Vehicle Accident*, and forwarded to the Chief of PS within twenty-four (24) hours of the occurrence;
- r) While reversing a vehicle, a back-up guide must be utilized at all times excepting where a drive through access is provided for a garage;
- s) A back-up guide will be wearing a high visibility vest or coat during backing operations;
- t) While reversing the driver will ensure that their window is lowered to permit effective communication with the back-up guide; and
- u) If a back-up guide is not available the driver will use any available means possible to safely position the vehicle, i.e. exiting the vehicle to ascertain the area, backup cameras, backup alarms.