

CITY OF BEND FIRE RESCUE
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Author: Norris
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Reviewed By:
Reviewed Date:
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TITLE: Bariatric Patient Responses

NUMBER: B-1

A. SIZE-UP/ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS

- 1) Patients in excess of 300lbs present increased potential risk for injury to ambulance personnel and themselves during their movement and transportation. In an effort to mitigate these risks Bend Fire Department has purchased Stryker auto load gurneys which have a capacity of 750lbs and (EPS) expanded patient surface. The Stryker auto load will serve as our bariatric gurney of any patient in that range (300lbs-750lbs). The Stryker auto load gurney helps Bend Fire Department strive to ensure a safe work environment, and mitigate the health risks to providers who lift, transport and care for bariatric patients.

B. SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS AND CHECKLIST

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- 1) Obese and bariatric are synonymous.
- 2) Patients over 300 lbs. are considered obese.
- 3) Use of the Stryker auto load gurney will be used in the range of 300lbs-750lbs.
- 4) Bend Fire Department will respond with one ambulance and a minimum crew of two medics.
- 5) Each agency agrees that they will respond with one crew member per 100 lbs. of patient to assist with manpower, logistical needs, and transport.
- 6) Move the patient in the lowered position for safety.
- 7) Have the patient assist when possible.
- 8) Engine and medic response should be considered the standard.
- 9) Consider safety officer and BC response for complex incidents that may require demolition, ramp construction, or specialized rescue techniques.
- 10) Consider MD consult in cases where MD care or labs at the home may be the safest mode for all. Making such a request involves four factors;
 - The patient is very large.
 - Removal of the patient will cause additional risk to the patient and/or EMS personnel.
 - The medical condition can be managed without immediate removal to the hospital.
 - The home environment is compatible with the patient remaining there.

CITY OF BEND FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND INSTRUCTION

- 11) Utilize social services to have homes modified for patient movement in the future.
- 12) Obese patients may require special techniques for medical care such as; BP cuff use, alternative landmarks for EKG's and procedures. They may also require longer IO and IM needles.
- 13) Consult MD for medication dosage adjustments for obese patients.
- 14) The mortuary may require fire department assistance to remove and extricate obese patients that are deceased.