

CHAPTER 6
PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST AID SCOPE OF PRACTICE
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CHAPTER 6

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST AID SCOPE OF PRACTICE

1. DEFINITION. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100009, states, “Public safety first aid” (PSFA) means the recognition of the need for immediate care of an injury or sudden illness, including medical emergencies, by public safety personnel, prior to the availability of medical care by licensed or certified health care professionals. Other relevant authorities concerning the information in this chapter are Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.107, 1797.182, and 1797.183; California Penal Code, Section 13518; and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 1.5.

2. POLICY.

a. Basic Scope of Practice of Public Safety First Aid. During training or while at the scene of an emergency, trained personnel are authorized to perform any of the following:

- (1) Evaluate the ill and injured.
- (2) Provide treatment for shock.
- (3) Use the following techniques to support the airway and breathing:
 - (a) Manual airway opening methods, including head-tilt, chin lift, and/or jaw thrust.
 - (b) Manual methods to remove an airway obstruction in adults, children, and infants.
 - (c) Use the recovery position.
- (4) Perform the following during emergency care:
 - (a) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
 - (b) Spinal immobilization.
 - (c) Splinting of extremities.
 - (d) Emergency eye irrigation using water or normal saline.
 - (e) Assist with administration of oral glucose.

- (f) Assist patients with administration of physician-prescribed epinephrine devices and naloxone.
- (g) Assist in emergency childbirth.
- (h) Hemorrhage control using direct pressure, pressure bandages, principles of pressure points, and tourniquets. Hemostatic dressings may be used from the list approved by the Emergency Medical Services Authority.
- (i) Chest seals and dressings.
- (j) Simple decontamination techniques and use of decontamination equipment.
- (k) Care for amputated body parts.
- (l) Provide basic wound care.

NOTE: The scope of practice of trained personnel shall not exceed those activities authorized in this section.

3. OPTIONAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE.

- a. In addition to the skills authorized within the PSFA Basic Scope of Practice, specified optional skills may be performed. Optional skills may only be performed if personnel have been trained and tested to demonstrate competency, following initial instruction. Additionally, optional skills must be authorized by the Medical Director of the Local Emergency Medical Services Authority (LEMSA). Departmental personnel will be required to comply with LEMSA policies and procedures for performance of optional skills and report routing procedures. After personnel demonstrate written and skills-based competency on optional skills, their training record must be kept up to date for LEMSA review as needed.
- b. During the course of enforcement duties, all uniformed employees who are certified may carry and utilize Optional Scope of Practice equipment if available. Exceptions to this policy include attendance at funerals and court appearances.