

**OKALOOSA COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

---

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Temperature Extremes</b>
<b>Policy:</b>	<b>424.00</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To ensure that Okaloosa County EMS has procedures in effect dealing with fluid and medication temperature extremes.</b>

---

**Policy:**

**I. TEMPERATURES ABOVE 89° F**

- A. If ambulance units are parked outside for any length of time the air conditioning in the patient compartment should be used to maintain a temperature below the maximum temperature recommended by manufacturers. In general, this temperature is 77 – 89° F depending on the medication. If the unit is outside and the inside temperature where the medications are stored is above the recommended temperature, notify the Logistics Department for information concerning the medications.

**II. TEMPERATURE BELOW 59° F**

- A. If ambulance units are parked outside for any length of time the heater in the patient care compartment should be used to maintain a temperature above the minimum temperature recommended by manufacturers. In general, this temperature is 56 – 59° F depending on the medication. If the unit is outside and the inside temperature where the medications are stored is below the recommended temperature, notify the Logistics Department for information concerning the medications.
- B. In the wintertime when temperatures fall below the 59° F, ambulances should be parked inside a garage if available.

**III. MEDICATIONS EXPOSED TO TEMPERATURE EXTREMES**

- A. If medications or other supplies are exposed to temperatures outside the recommended ranges for an extreme duration, the Logistics Department will pull the supply and contact the vendor or manufacturer for their recommendation.
- B. If there is any question about the supply it will be pulled from the stock and replaced.

**IV. AMBULANCE UNITS LEFT OUTSIDE**

- A. If an ambulance unit must be left outside for an extreme duration and not in service (*i.e.* maintenance) then all of the medications and fluids are to be removed from the ambulance unit.

**Accountability and Compliance:**

1. It is the responsibility of all crewmembers to ensure that the ambulance units and the medications stored in them are maintained and monitored for temperature extremes.
2. The Logistics and Finance Captain will maintain continuous dialogue with medication manufacturers for medication management recommendations.
3. The average temperature and the number of times temperature rises or falls outside of the established temperature range 56-89° F will be documented monthly for each ambulance. Fluids and medications that fall out of temperature range more than 5 times in a monitoring period or for longer than 2 hours per period will be disposed of according to policy.

Policy #: 424.00  
CAAS: 203.03.04  
Author: Welborn  
Reviewed: Leadership  
Approved: Leadership  
Status: Active  
Effective Date: 07/27/16  
Revision Date: 07/09/18