



Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services



OPERATIONS

MAXIMUM CONSECUTIVE SHIFT DUTY

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to establish the guidelines relating to the maximum number of hours a provider may stand duty.

APPLICABILITY: This policy shall apply to all members of the Department of Emergency Medical Services.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is a concern of both EMS and members of the medical community that fatigue caused by extended periods of inadequate rest may impair job performance. This may be the result of the provider working consecutive shifts and the level of activity, both routine and emergency that is encountered during those shifts. Fatigue may affect performance in critical areas such as BLS/ALS skills and defensive driving techniques.

Department members shall not work more than two (2) consecutive 12-hour shifts for no more than 27 continuous hours. In instances where two (2) consecutive shifts are worked, the provider must have planned to be off-duty a full 12 hours before working again. It is the provider's responsibility to schedule his/her extra shift, whether constant staffing or absences with relief, so that this policy is not violated, and they are available and eligible to work their regularly assigned shift.

It is incumbent upon all members to report for work well rested and fully able to perform all assigned duties. In accordance with City policies, the Department may limit outside employment of career members if those activities hinders the member or reduces his/her readiness to perform his/her job.

Maximum shift lengths may be adjusted during general City emergencies at the discretion of the EMS Chief or his designee. The Operational Medical Director shall be notified when this unusual action is required.

ORDERED:



1/24/2017

EMS Chief

Date