



# Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS

## Standard Operating Procedure

### DOCUMENT DETAILS

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|--|--|
| <b>Standard Operating Procedure: 3.06</b>      | <b>Effective Date: November 19, 2025</b>   |
| <b>Subject: Bariatric Response</b>             | <b>Section: Emergency Medical Services</b> |
| <b>Authorized: Eric Zaney, Assistant Chief</b> | <b>Revision Date: N/A</b>                  |

**Applicability:**      ☒ Volunteer      ☒ Career

### I. PURPOSE

This policy establishes a standard operating procedure for the safe and dignified transport of bariatric patients. The Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS is committed to patient and clinician safety during all calls for response. The movement and transport of patients with a large or atypical body mass require additional personnel and specialized equipment.

### II. DEFINITIONS

**Bariatric Patient** – Any patient whose size or weight exceeds one or more of the following:

- The weight capacity of the standard stretcher – 700 pounds
- The width of the stretcher – Note: stretcher side wings deployed down may meet patient needs on standard stretchers.
- The resources of the personnel dispatched.
- It is determined by personnel on scene that the patient cannot be safely extricated and/or transported by the standard stretcher.

**Bariatric Capable Ambulance** – Has the appropriate floor mounts to accommodate the winch and ramp plate.

**Lift Assist** – Shall consist of an additional engine or special service with a minimum staffing of three additional personnel.

**Bariatric Assist** – Shall consist of one transport ambulance, one engine, or special service.

**Bariatric Response** – shall consist of one bariatric capable transport unit with required bariatric equipment, one engine, or special service.

### III. PROCEDURES

- A. Personnel on scene shall request a lift assist when it is determined that additional personnel are needed to safely lift and/or remove the patient for transport.
  - a. Standard lift assist will be required for all patients exceeding 350 pounds
- B. The bariatric stretcher should remain outside any residence or structure without appropriate ramp access.
  - a. At no point should the bariatric stretcher be lifted up or down stairs.
  - b. While a patient is on the bariatric stretcher, it shall be maintained at the lowest position.
  - c. Scene assessment risks identification
    - i. Weight and size limitation of stairs, steps, ramps, porches and decks
    - ii. Walking surface concerns (grade, grounds, driveways, walks and interior floor finishes.
    - iii. Adequacy of door opening(s)
    - iv. Weight and BMI of the patient
    - v. Ability to get the patient handling/lifting equipment near the patient.
- C. All personnel on the Bariatric Response shall continue to the hospital to assist with patient transfer. (The shift commander may place certain units in service and replace them with units that are closer to the receiving facility).
- D. The transporting unit shall provide an informational consult with the receiving facility through EMRC to alert them of the bariatric transport.
- E. If structural modifications are required to remove the patient safely, a Shift Commander shall be requested to respond. Consideration should be given to requesting the addition of Special Operations units.
- F. The initial Carroll County Department of Fire EMS – EMS unit that begins patient care will continue with treatment and transport of the patient in the Bariatric Transport Unit. If operational needs do not require additional transport personnel, then Bariatric Transport Unit personnel will staff -up the on-scene ambulance.
  - a. Mutual Aid Response
    - i. In accordance with pre-established mutual aid request procedures. ECC will dispatch a bariatric equipment response unit as well as the closest suppression piece.

- ii. The bariatric equipment response unit is not responsible for patient care. This unit shall provide equipment and assist with transportation, as well as patient handling.
- iii. While operating in the mutual aid jurisdiction, personnel must continue to adhere to all safety requirements.

#### G. Equipment familiarization

- a. Train frequently with patient-handling equipment to remain familiar with the:
  - i. Availability of specialty patient-handling equipment
  - ii. The weight limitations of patient-handling equipment: Bariatric stretcher was a weight capacity of 1600 pounds at the lowest level, 850 pounds in any raised level.
  - iii. The usage of specialty patient handling equipment.

#### H. Bariatric Surgery Centers

- a. Patient with complications related to their bariatric surgery should be transported to the hospital where the surgery was performed. If this is not possible, the patient should be transported to an accredited bariatric surgery hospital. Hospitals that do not perform bariatric surgery will not have the surgical expertise or facilities to handle bariatric surgical complications. Consult if needed, below is a list of Maryland hospitals in the Baltimore area accredited by the American College of Surgeons as Bariatric Surgery Centers.
  - i. Greater Baltimore Medical Center
  - ii. Harford Memorial Hospital
  - iii. John Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
  - iv. MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center
  - v. Northwest Hospital Center
  - vi. St. Agnes Hospital
  - vii. University of Maryland Medical Center

## IV. RECISION

This Standard Operating Procedure rescinds all directives regarding Bariatric Response or similar content previously issued for personnel of the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS.

## V. RELATED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES / DOCUMENTS

| Body Mass Index Table |                      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| Obese                 |                      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Extremely Obese |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| BMI                   | 30                   | 31  | 32  | 33  | 34  | 35  | 36  | 37  | 38  | 39  | 40  | 41  | 42  | 43              | 44  | 45  | 46  | 47  | 48  | 49  | 50  | 51  | 52  | 53  | 54  |  |  |
| Height<br>(inches)    | Body Weight (pounds) |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |                 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |  |
| 58                    | 143                  | 148 | 153 | 158 | 162 | 167 | 172 | 177 | 181 | 186 | 191 | 196 | 201 | 205             | 210 | 215 | 220 | 224 | 229 | 234 | 239 | 244 | 248 | 253 | 258 |  |  |
| 59                    | 148                  | 153 | 158 | 163 | 168 | 173 | 178 | 183 | 188 | 193 | 198 | 203 | 208 | 212             | 217 | 222 | 227 | 232 | 237 | 242 | 247 | 252 | 257 | 262 | 267 |  |  |
| 60                    | 153                  | 158 | 163 | 168 | 174 | 179 | 184 | 189 | 194 | 199 | 204 | 209 | 215 | 220             | 225 | 230 | 235 | 240 | 245 | 250 | 255 | 261 | 266 | 271 | 276 |  |  |
| 61                    | 158                  | 164 | 169 | 174 | 180 | 185 | 190 | 195 | 201 | 206 | 211 | 217 | 222 | 227             | 232 | 238 | 243 | 248 | 254 | 259 | 264 | 269 | 275 | 280 | 285 |  |  |
| 62                    | 164                  | 169 | 175 | 180 | 186 | 191 | 196 | 202 | 207 | 213 | 218 | 224 | 229 | 235             | 240 | 246 | 251 | 256 | 262 | 267 | 273 | 278 | 284 | 289 | 295 |  |  |
| 63                    | 169                  | 175 | 180 | 186 | 191 | 197 | 203 | 208 | 214 | 220 | 225 | 231 | 237 | 242             | 248 | 254 | 259 | 265 | 270 | 278 | 282 | 287 | 293 | 299 | 304 |  |  |
| 64                    | 174                  | 180 | 186 | 192 | 197 | 204 | 209 | 215 | 221 | 227 | 232 | 238 | 244 | 250             | 256 | 262 | 267 | 273 | 279 | 285 | 291 | 296 | 302 | 308 | 314 |  |  |
| 65                    | 180                  | 186 | 192 | 198 | 204 | 210 | 216 | 222 | 228 | 234 | 240 | 246 | 252 | 258             | 264 | 270 | 276 | 282 | 288 | 294 | 300 | 306 | 312 | 318 | 324 |  |  |
| 66                    | 186                  | 192 | 198 | 204 | 210 | 216 | 223 | 229 | 235 | 241 | 247 | 253 | 260 | 266             | 272 | 278 | 284 | 291 | 297 | 303 | 309 | 315 | 322 | 328 | 334 |  |  |
| 67                    | 191                  | 198 | 204 | 211 | 217 | 223 | 230 | 236 | 242 | 249 | 255 | 261 | 268 | 274             | 280 | 287 | 293 | 299 | 306 | 312 | 319 | 325 | 331 | 338 | 344 |  |  |
| 68                    | 197                  | 203 | 210 | 216 | 223 | 230 | 236 | 243 | 249 | 256 | 262 | 269 | 276 | 282             | 289 | 295 | 302 | 308 | 315 | 322 | 328 | 335 | 341 | 348 | 354 |  |  |
| 69                    | 203                  | 209 | 216 | 223 | 230 | 236 | 243 | 250 | 257 | 263 | 270 | 277 | 284 | 291             | 297 | 304 | 311 | 318 | 324 | 331 | 338 | 345 | 351 | 358 | 365 |  |  |
| 70                    | 209                  | 216 | 222 | 229 | 236 | 243 | 250 | 257 | 264 | 271 | 278 | 285 | 292 | 299             | 306 | 313 | 320 | 327 | 334 | 341 | 348 | 355 | 362 | 369 | 376 |  |  |
| 71                    | 215                  | 222 | 229 | 236 | 243 | 250 | 257 | 265 | 272 | 279 | 286 | 293 | 301 | 308             | 315 | 322 | 329 | 338 | 343 | 351 | 358 | 365 | 372 | 379 | 386 |  |  |
| 72                    | 221                  | 228 | 235 | 242 | 250 | 258 | 265 | 272 | 279 | 287 | 294 | 302 | 309 | 316             | 324 | 331 | 338 | 346 | 353 | 361 | 368 | 375 | 383 | 390 | 397 |  |  |
| 73                    | 227                  | 235 | 242 | 250 | 257 | 265 | 272 | 280 | 288 | 295 | 302 | 310 | 318 | 325             | 333 | 340 | 348 | 355 | 363 | 371 | 378 | 386 | 393 | 401 | 408 |  |  |
| 74                    | 233                  | 241 | 249 | 256 | 264 | 272 | 280 | 287 | 295 | 303 | 311 | 319 | 326 | 334             | 342 | 350 | 358 | 365 | 373 | 381 | 389 | 396 | 404 | 412 | 420 |  |  |
| 75                    | 240                  | 248 | 256 | 264 | 272 | 279 | 287 | 295 | 303 | 311 | 319 | 327 | 335 | 343             | 351 | 359 | 367 | 376 | 383 | 391 | 399 | 407 | 415 | 423 | 431 |  |  |
| 76                    | 246                  | 254 | 263 | 271 | 279 | 287 | 295 | 304 | 312 | 320 | 328 | 336 | 344 | 353             | 361 | 369 | 377 | 385 | 394 | 402 | 410 | 418 | 426 | 435 | 443 |  |  |

## VI. ATTACHMENTS

N/A