



**Butte County Fire Department
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

MINOR SUBJECT: Airway Management
Specific Subject: King Airway

No.
Date: October, 2012

POLICY:

To ensure all career emergency response EMT's in Butte County are trained to the highest airway management capabilities available to our customers.

This policy will outline the training standards, logistics, documentation requirements, Indications, Contraindications, and most important how to maintain currency.

This is based on the training standard required by Sierra Sacramento Valley (SSV) EMSA and the cooperative oversight by Enloe Hospital.

Authority

*Health and safety code 1797.220 and 1798

*California Code of Regulations Title 22 Division 9 Section 100169

PROCEDURE:

Initial Training

All career emergency response EMT's (firefighter 1 through Fire Captain) assigned to a fire station are required to attend one (1), five (5) hour King Airway class that has been approved by SSV.

We will re-evaluate the King Airway program in one year to determine if it is in the best interest of the department to expand the program to the volunteer firefighter EMT's.

Recurrent Training

All career emergency response EMT's (firefighter 1 through Fire Captain) assigned to a fire station are required to complete a skills verification form using one of the seven Battalion representatives once every six months (prior to expiration) in order to maintain currency with the King Airway skill. The King Airway recertification skill will also be available on a drop in bases at the Training and Safety Bureau.

Employees should view this as a test of their skills and not an opportunity to refresh.

Battalion 1, recertification during the months of January and July
Battalion 2, recertification during the months of February and August
Battalion 3, recertification during the months of March and September
Battalion 4, recertification during the months of April and October
Battalion 5, recertification during the months of May and November
Battalion 6, recertification during the months of June and December
Battalion 7, recertification during the months of July and January
Battalion 8, recertification during the months of August and February

Any employee that has failed to maintain their King Airway skills verification shall do the following immediately.

Do not use the King Airway under any circumstance and make every effort to complete skills verification ASAP utilizing your battalion skills verification representative.

Sizing

- *Size 3 - Patients between 4' and 5' feet tall (55 ml air).
- *Size 4 - Patients between 5' and 6' feet tall (70 ml air).
- *Size 5 – Patients over 6' tall (80 ml air).

Indications

- *Cardiac Arrest
- *Respiratory arrest or severe compromise AND unable to adequately ventilate with a BVM

May be used as a primary airway or after one or more unsuccessful endotracheal intubation attempt.

Contraindications

- *Conscious patient with a gag reflex
- *Patients under 4' tall
- *Know cases of esophageal diseases, suspected ingestion of caustic substance or extensive airway burns
- *Laryngectomy with a stoma.

Methods to Confirm Placement

- *Chest rise and fall
- *Listen to lung sounds
- *Confirm no epi-gastric sounds
- *Use of the CO2 detector

Trouble Shooting

- *If placement is unsuccessful, remove tube, ventilate via BVM and repeat the sequence of steps.
- *If unsuccessful on second attempt BLS airway management should be resumed.
- *Most unsuccessful placements relate to failure to keep tube in midline during placement.

Additional Information

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*Cuffs can be lacerated by broken teeth or dentures. Remove dentures before placing tube

*Do not force tube, as airway trauma can occur.

Documentation

*A PCR shall be completed and either scanned and e-mailed to the Fire Captain EMS coordinator (Currently chad.porter@fire.ca.gov) or faxed to 530-879-3433 within 24 hours of the incident.

The Fire Captain EMS Coordinator will:

*email one copy of the PCR to Enloe Hospital within 24 hours of the incident.

*email or fax one copy of the PCR to SSV with 7 working days of the incident.

The PCR should include many of the abovementioned key points (confirmation, indications, contraindications, size and weather there was any complications.