


# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

FCGO: 18-08

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**TO:** All MCFRS Personnel

**FROM:** Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein 

**SUBJECT:** Leave-Behind Naloxone & Urgent Follow-Up Program

In partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) is participating in the *Leave-Behind Naloxone & Urgent Follow-Up Program*. This program is being funded entirely by grants from the Maryland Department of Health and strives to pair addicted patients with existing substance abuse recovery resources for the purposes of supporting recovery. Most elements of this program will be handled through the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) initiative. At no time will regular field personnel be asked or required to leave medication behind on the scene for intended later use by patients or their families.

However, MCFRS personnel must immediately notify their EMS Duty Officer when they encounter and/or treat a suspected opioid overdose patient who does not subsequently consent to transport to the hospital. In addition, providers should make all efforts to obtain the best possible phone number and address for this patient and record this information in the eMEDS report.

For further information about this program, please contact your EMS Duty Officer or the EMS Battalion Chief.

## **Background**

The number of opioid related deaths in the State of Maryland has doubled between 2015 and 2016 and quadrupled since 2010. Montgomery County has also seen a steady rise in these deaths.

Across the State, prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm-reduction initiatives are being carried out through partnerships between the Maryland Department of Health, local health departments, and local Emergency Medical Services Operational Programs (EMSOP). While these initiatives provide resources and support for people experiencing addiction, lifelong recovery management can take between four and seven years. Increasing the accessibility and availability of Naloxone to those at risk for an opioid overdose (including family members, close friends, or the public) may reduce the chance of death for these individuals.