


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

FCGO: 21-08 (Amended 07/22/21)

July 13, 2021

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TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein 
SUBJECT: Ambulance Cot & Stair Chair Management

The preventive maintenance of ambulance cots and stair chairs is critical for the delivery of safe and effective pre-hospital care. To improve the accountability and service of this equipment and to ensure that cots and stair chairs are serviced at least annually, MCFRS is implementing a change to assignment of ambulance cots and stair chairs.

Effective 09/01/2021, all ambulance cots and stair chairs will be assigned to front line units. For example, the cot and stair chair on A701 will be labeled "A701". No matter what chassis is running as A701, the A701 cot and stair chair will stay with the unit running as A701. This is similar in concept to how MCFRS manages SCBA right now. This means that if a cot is switched to another unit during an incident, the two transport units must later rendezvous to return the cots to the assigned units. **This change in practice should not in any way delay the transport of patients – it is OK to swap cots for the transport of patients.**

The process for inventorying and labeling cots will be managed by the Fleet Support Captain and Logistics Chief in coordination with Station Commanders, Station Officers, and LFRDs.

Process for Defective Cots and Stair Chairs and Preventive Maintenance

Cot and stair chair defects will continue to be entered via the portable equipment defect report process.

During business hours: Defective cots or stair chairs should be brought to Small Tools for drop-offs and to obtain loaners. Based on the limited number of loaner Powerlift cots, there may be times when a loaner Ferno cot may be issued to a Powerload ambulance.

After-hours: Each EMS Duty Officer Station (currently FS18 and FS32) maintains one loaner cot and one loaner stair chair. Defective cots should be swapped at one of the EMSDO stations. On the next business day, the unit with the defective cot or stair chair (using the EMSDO loaner) is responsible for:

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- Getting the loaner back to the EMSDO station (18 or 32)
- Getting the defective cot or stair chair to Small Tools
- Obtaining a Small Tools loaner cot or stair chair

In the event of an after-hours swap being necessary and all EMS duty officers have exhausted their loaner units, escalate via the appropriate Battalion Chief to contact the Fleet Support Captain or Logistics Section Chief.

After repairs are completed, the affected Station Commander will be notified by email that their assigned cot or stair chair is ready for pickup.

On an annual basis, ambulances and medic units will be recalled to Small Tools for annual PM of cots and stair chairs in similar fashion to current annual ladder testing process.

For further questions or clarification, contact the Logistics Section Chief.

