UNIT TERMINAL OBJECTIVE

8-1 At the completion of this unit, the paramedic will understand standards and guidelines that help ensure safe and effective ground and air medical transport.

COGNITIVE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this unit, the paramedic student will be able to:

8-1.1 Identify current local and state standards which influence ambulance design, equipment requirements and staffing of ambulances. (C-1)
8-1.2 Discuss the importance of completing an ambulance equipment/ supply checklist. (C-1)
8-1.3 Discuss the factors to be considered when determining ambulance stationing within a community. (C-1)
8-1.4 Describe the advantages and disadvantages of air medical transport. (C-1)
8-1.5 Identify the conditions/ situations in which air medical transport should be considered. (C-1)

AFFECTIVE OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this unit, the paramedic student will be able to:

8-1.6 Assess personal practices relative to ambulance operations which may affect the safety of the crew, the patient and bystanders. (A-3)
8-1.7 Serve as a role model for others relative to the operation of ambulances. (A-3)
8-1.8 Value the need to serve as the patient advocate to ensure appropriate patient transportation via ground or air. (A-2)

PSYCHOMOTOR OBJECTIVES

At the completion of this unit, the paramedic student will be able to:

8-1.9 Demonstrate how to place a patient in, and remove a patient from, an ambulance. (P-1)

DECLARATIVE

I. Ambulance operations
- A. Ambulance standards
  - 1. Influence ambulance design, equipment, and staffing
    - a. State statutes/ administrative rules
      - (1) KKK specifications
      - (2) Air ambulance standards
      - (3) Operational staffing standards
      - (4) Operational driver standards
      - (5) Operational driving standards
      - (6) Operational equipment standards
      - (7) City/ county/ district ordinance standards
- B. Checking ambulances
  - 1. Completing an ambulance equipment/ supply checklist is important
    - a. Safety
    - b. Patient care
    - c. Risk management issues
    - d. Scheduled medications
- C. Ambulance stationing
  - 1. Peak load staffing (cyclic patterns)
    - a. Geographical demands
    - b. Standards of reliability
    - c. Patient demand
    - d. Traffic congestion
    - e. Deployment strategies
- D. Safe ambulance operation
  - 1. Factors in safe driving
  - 2. Using escorts
  - 3. Adverse environmental conditions
  - 4. Use of lights and sirens
  - 5. Proceeding through intersections
  - 6. Parking at an emergency scene
  - 7. Operate with “due regard for the safety of all others”
  - 8. Safely placing a patient in and removing a patient from an ambulance

II. Utilizing air medical transport
- A. Types
  - 1. Rotorcraft
  - 2. Fixed wing
- B. Advantages
  - 1. Specialized care
    - a. Skills, supplies, equipment
  - 2. Rapid transport
  - 3. Access to remote areas
  - 4. Helicopter hospital helipads
- C. Disadvantages

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1. Weather/ environmental
2. Altitude limitations
3. Airspeed limitations
4. Aircraft cabin size
5. Terrain
6. Cost

D. Activation
1. Local and state guidelines exist for air medical activation
   a. State statutes
   b. Administrative rules
   c. City/ county/ district ordinance standards

E. Indications for patient transport
1. Medical
2. Trauma
3. Search and rescue

F. Patient transfer
1. Interacting with flight personnel
2. Patient preparation
3. Scene safety
   a. Securing loose objects
   b. Approaching the aircraft

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