
RESPONDING UNITS - CANCELING/REDUCING CODE

1. **GENERAL PRINCIPLES:** In general, it is better to respond with more personnel and equipment than is needed and cancel them en route, than fail to dispatch appropriate personnel and equipment. Fire and ambulance units should be dispatched to all accident scenes when there is a report of people trapped or injured
2. **CANCELING/REDUCING THE CODE OF RESPONDING UNITS:** Medical personnel first on the scene of an incident:
 - 2.1 **may cancel a responding ambulance unit** upon determination that, in the best judgment first responder, the incident does not involve an injury or illness. The ambulance should not be canceled if the patient is requesting care and transport, even if there is no apparent illness or injury
 - 2.2 **should cancel the ambulance response** if the patient meets the "Determination of Death" criteria or the patient has a valid Alameda County or California Medical Association (CMA) "Do Not Attempt Resuscitation" form (see "Death in the Field" [page 78](#))
 - 2.3 **may reduce a responding ambulance from Code 3 to Code 2** upon determination that, in the best judgment of the First Responder/Officer, the illness or injury is not immediately life threatening or that the difference in Code 3 and Code 2 response time would not likely have an impact on patient outcome

Note: When an ambulance is reduced to Code 2, it is possible that the responding ambulance will be redirected to a Code 3 call, resulting in a delayed ambulance response from a distant location
 - 2.4 **Ambulance personnel arriving first on the scene** of a medical emergency should cancel the First Responder/Law enforcement response only if assistance is not needed and a potential public safety risk does not exist at the emergency scene