



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Department of EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

TOPIC: TOBACCO USE	SOG #: 2.24
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Approved by: Hollye B Carpenter	Adopted: 03/10/2014

PURPOSE

To outline the rules related to the use of tobacco products by EMS Providers while on duty.

SCOPE

All department EMS personnel

CONTENT

The Department of EMS is concerned about the well-being of its employees and volunteers, as well as the public, and is committed to providing a healthy, comfortable, and productive work environment. In particular smoking has been shown beyond any reasonable doubt to be a danger and a discomfort to smokers and non-smokers alike.

EMS Providers are highly discouraged in the use of tobacco products. Should an EMS provider choose to use a tobacco product while on the duty the following guidelines must be adhered to.

The use of tobacco products shall be prohibited under the following circumstances:

- Persons less than eighteen years of age while on duty.
- In all licensed EMS vehicles.
- In offices or buildings owned, leased or occupied for county functions.
- On all Northampton County School property.
- On all hospital grounds.
- Within 5 feet of an open EMS vehicle.
- While wearing any part of the EMS Personal Protective Gear.
- On the scene of all EMS calls, regardless of type. An exception shall be made in the event the on-scene call time is greater than one hour. In this case, provided adequate resources are available to continue the performance of assigned duties, the use of tobacco products shall be allowed away from the operations work area for a brief period of time.

Designated smoking area(s) shall be established outside each station. This area shall not violate any smoking policy established by the volunteer agency.

To assist those who wish to quit using tobacco products, Northampton Count offers the following support:

- EMS Employees may avail themselves of EAP resources for referrals to community smoking cessation services.