

# Springdale Fire Department

## Policy & Procedures Manual

### Volume 2 – Operations

### Section 204 – EMS Operations

### 204.2 – Ambulance Cot Straps

To provide the appropriate level of safety for patients transported, all straps provided on SFD ambulance cots shall be used while transporting a patient. This includes the shoulder straps. The only exceptions are:

- If there is an injury that would be worsened or aggravated by the use of a strap Paramedics may elect not to use the strap in that area.
- When it is necessary to release the strap to perform a procedure for patient care or the patient cannot tolerate the strap.
- When the patient refuses to wear the strap.

Occurrences of any exception shall be documented on the EMS Report. If a strap is temporarily removed for a procedure, the strap shall be re-secured as soon as the procedure is completed. All straps shall be kept fastened and snug anytime they are in place. When placing a patient on a backboard and using the shoulder straps provided on the cots, do not bring the straps up over the CID Blocks. Slide the shoulder straps to the outside rail of the cot and miss the blocks, but still bring the straps up over the patient's shoulders. As with the SFD seatbelt policy, cot straps shall be in place prior to moving the ambulance. Always in making a decision about whether to use the straps consider the patient's safety.