

I. SCOPE / PURPOSE

- A. This document serves to outline the policies and procedures for securing durable medical equipment in a company vehicle. This policy applies to all Armstrong ambulances and chair cars.

II. POLICY

- A. Armstrong Ambulance Service is committed to the safety of its employees and patients. Because of this, all equipment in an Armstrong vehicle must be secured prior to transport in either a mounted bracket, enclosed cabinet, or with straps provided, in order to prevent the item from becoming a projectile in a collision or other “short stop” situation.
- B. All transporting ambulances purchased by Armstrong Ambulance will meet the federal specifications KKK-A-1822F, Section 3.11 for Storage Compartments or other applicable standards established by the authority having jurisdiction.
- C. All non-transporting ambulances or chair cars will be modified to include a mechanism for securing all possible projectiles, including fire extinguishers, patient handling equipment and other medical devices.

III. PROCEDURE

NOTE: The interior configuration of each truck is slightly different. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the various methods of equipment mounting and locking devices for the vehicle you are assigned to during your equipment checks at shift start. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the securing of equipment in vehicles, please contact the on-duty operations manager, or the safety officer.

- A. Enclosed cabinets: Employees must ensure that enclosed cabinets are closed and locked (where applicable) before vehicle is put in motion to prevent equipment and supplies from falling during transport.
- B. Open shelves: Equipment stored on open shelving must be secured with the seatbelt-style fasteners or netting provided.
- C. First-in bags, jump kits, portable oxygen bags and medication boxes must be stored in secured cabinets or shelving. It is against regulation to store equipment and supplies on seats and/or in seat belts.
- D. Oxygen tanks: spare portable tanks and stationary tanks - will be secured in the mounted brackets or cabinets designed to store these tanks.
- E. Stretchers must be secured to the vehicle utilizing manufacturer-approved methods, including floor mounted locks and side mounted locking bar.
- F. Fire Extinguishers will be secured to mounted brackets.
- G. Equipment utilized during the course of patient care - including but not limited to: cardiac monitors, IV pump, ventilators or computers - must be secured to the interior compartment of the ambulance by approved methods.
 - 1. Cardiac monitor – All ALS vehicles are outfitted with a monitor bracket – monitors will be secured to monitor bracket at all times during patient care.
 - 2. Ventilators will be secured to the “pack rack” during patient care.
 - 3. IV Pump will be secured to an appropriate IV pole (stretcher or truck mounted)

Securing Equipment in Vehicles

OP-001283

- H. Wheelchairs must be secured to the vehicle using side mounted “cam locks” or floor mounted tie downs. Please refer to policy titled Chair Car Operations OP-001210 for additional information on securing a wheelchair in company chair cars.
- I. Wheelchair patients requiring oxygen must have their oxygen bottles in a secure holder mounted to the wheelchair prior to transport. The oxygen holder is NOT provided by Armstrong Ambulance.
- J. **Non-Armstrong Vehicles:** When it is necessary for employees to provide treatment in a fire department or other agency’s ambulance, employees must secure all equipment using the best methods possible given the individual ambulance design. When available, pack racks, IV poles and monitor brackets must be used before seeking alternate methods of securing equipment. Should these items not be available, strapping items to the stretcher or seats is acceptable as a last resort.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Instructing employees in the proper methods for securing equipment in the vehicle are part of the orientation process and are taught by the preceptor or trainer during an employee’s third-ride time.
- B. Employees who are uncertain of how an item should be secured in the vehicle should contact the on-duty Operations Manager.

CONTACT / DEPARTMENT: Director of Operations / Safety Officer

REFERENCES: KKK-A-1822F, Section 3.11;
Chair Car Operations OP-001210

REVISION LEVEL: 03

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REVIEW SCHEDULE: ANNUAL

APPROVED BY: Michael Kass
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