







**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**PROVIDER ACTION NOTICE**  
**AUGUST 2011**

**Mylar® Blankets**

APPLIES TO:			
			
BASIC LIFE SUPPORT		ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT	

**PURPOSE**

To describe the system-wide replacement of paper burn sheets with Mylar® (polyester film) blankets.

**BACKGROUND**

In cooperation with the Washington Regional Burn Center, all jurisdictions in the National Capital Region are replacing paper "burn sheets" with Mylar® blankets.

While blue paper "burn sheets" have been used for years, they can "flake" pieces of the paper sheet that may adhere to the burned tissue, increasing infection risk, and complicating further treatment. Additionally, they are not effective in maintaining the patient's body temperature.

The Mylar® Blanket is preferred as it is more effective in retaining body heat and is less likely to adhere or flake into burned tissue. It may also serve to protect the exposed nerve endings in burned tissue which may reduce pain.

**PROVIDER ACTIONS**

**Silver Mylar® blankets are to be used as a dry dressing for the treatment of burn patients as the standard of care.**

**All paper burn sheets are to be removed from all units, shelves, and storage rooms and replaced with silver Mylar® blankets.**



EMS providers should ensure the burning process has been stopped using appropriate extinguishing methods, remove any burned clothing, and apply the Mylar® blanket directly over the burned areas as a dry dressing.

Mylar® blankets should also be considered in any other case where hypothermia or maintaining body temperature is a concern. This may include, but is not limited to, shock or near-drowning cases.

### **EQUIPMENT STANDARDIZATION**

General Order 05-06 – EMS Equipment Standardization will be updated to address this change in standard of care.

### **LOGISTICS**

An initial distribution of Mylar® blankets is underway to all transport units. These were purchased through a National Capital Region Pre-Hospital Burn Preparedness Grant. As additional supplies are available, suppression units and stations will be provided an initial supply.

The EMS Office has requested from Logistics and Central Services to remove paper burn sheets (Stock# 6515-000-2798) from the inventory. These should no longer be ordered. The Mylar® Blanket is under consideration to be added to the Central Services inventory, but may be ordered in the meantime using a "speed letter" through Logistics.

### **QUESTIONS**

Any questions can be referred to the EMS Office or the EMS Duty Officer for further clarification.