

MEMORANDUM

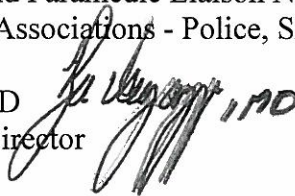
I C E M A



DATE: August 5, 2008

TO: EMS Providers - ALS, BLS and EMS Aircraft
Hospital Emergency Department - Medical Directors,
Nurse Managers and Paramedic Liaison Nurses (PLNs)
Law Enforcement Associations - Police, Sheriff, CHP

FROM: Reza Vaezazizi, MD
ICEMA Medical Director



SUBJECT: TASER DART REMOVAL IS PROHIBITED BY EMS PERSONNEL

ICEMA (Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency), the oversight agency for EMS providers in Inyo, Mono and San Bernardino Counties, has received several requests for clarification about field removal of taser darts from patients by paramedics. Apparently, Sherriff and various police departments call EMS to the scene for field removal of such objects from patients in custody.

Removal of taser darts and other impaled objects by EMS providers constitutes a minor surgical procedure, which is not in the scope of practice for California licensed paramedics and is strictly prohibited by regulation. These patients must be seen and treated in an appropriately staffed emergency department by a qualified emergency physician. EMS providers can be requested to see, treat and transport these patients but they cannot remove the objects in the field.

We thank you for your attention in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. You may direct any questions of concerns to Sherri Shimshy, RN, ICEMA EMS Nurse Specialist at (909) 388-5816 or at SShimshy@cao.sbcounty.gov

RV/SS/mae

c: Virginia Hastings
ICEMA Executive Director