# Ambulance Patient Offload Time Special Seasonal Report

## Riverside County EMS System Status

### Week 18 Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALS Responses</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>4,502 ALS responses in Riverside County — 1.0% INCREASE from previous week</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transports</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>3,087 transports in Riverside County — 0.4% DECREASE from previous week</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Patient Offload Delay (APOD)</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>591 APODs in Riverside County — 2.0% DECREASE from previous week</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APOD Hours</td>
<td>↓</td>
<td>235.8 hours — 6.7% DECREASE from previous week</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APOD Compliance</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>80.9% APOD Compliance in Riverside County — 0.3% INCREASE from previous week</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Treatment Services APOD</td>
<td>↑</td>
<td>55 ETS APODs greater than 30 minutes — 37.5% INCREASE from previous week</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS influenza-like-Illness (ILI)</td>
<td>↔</td>
<td>Baseline and stable — Page 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This report and all current and recent APOT reports can be found online at: [http://www.rivcoems.org/Documents/Reports-Current](http://www.rivcoems.org/Documents/Reports-Current)

Prepared by Riverside County EMS Agency – May 9, 2022
In an effort to monitor Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT) and influencing factors such as seasonal surge, Riverside County EMS Agency is publishing weekly reports. The following charts represent weekly aggregates of 9-1-1 Responses, Transports, and Ambulance Patient Offload Delays (APOD) for the past 16 weeks.

- During Week 18, there were a total of 4,502 ALS responses in Riverside County—1.0% INCREASE from the previous week’s total of 4,458 responses.
- During Week 18, there were a total of 3,087 transports in Riverside County—0.4% DECREASE from the previous week’s 3,100 transports.
- During Week 18, there were a total of 591 APODs in Riverside County—2.0% DECREASE from the previous week’s total of 603 APODs.

*Transports include only 9-1-1 transports to Riverside County hospitals*
The following chart represents weekly aggregate APOT and APOD hours (hh:mm:ss) for the past 16 weeks. APOT begins at patient arrival at hospital (eTimes.11) and ends when patient care is transferred to the hospital (eTimes.12). APOD calculation begins when APOT exceeds the 30-minute transfer of care standard defined in REMSA Policy 4109.

During Week 18, APOT county-wide totaled 1166.6 hours — 0.9% DECREASE the previous week’s total of 1177.7 hours.

County-wide APOD hours for Week 18 totaled 235.8 hours, a 6.7% DECREASE from the previous week’s total of 252.6 hours.

Data provided below illustrates total APOD time (hh:mm) by month over the last five years. This chart is a summation of offload time delays only and excludes the initial 30 minute period defined as the standard transfer of care time.

Riverside County Monthly Ambulance Patient Offload Delay Hours (2018-2022) Participating Providers

*May is a partial month
# AMBULANCE PATIENT OFFLOAD TIME BY HOSPITAL

## APOT Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>ALS Transports</th>
<th>APOT Transports</th>
<th>APOD Hours</th>
<th>APOD compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corona Regional Med Ctr</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>71:22:24</td>
<td>16:31:30</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Regional Med Ctr</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>60:46:17</td>
<td>3:18:30</td>
<td>96.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eisenhower Health</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>61:37:00</td>
<td>0:37:55</td>
<td>98.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemet Valley Hospital</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>156:31:23</td>
<td>37:40:57</td>
<td>66.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Valley Med Ctr</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>116:42:21</td>
<td>39:54:15</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JFK Hospital</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>20:04:04</td>
<td>0:00:00</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaiser Hospital Moreno Valley</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>61:41:42</td>
<td>29:56:03</td>
<td>46.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaiser Hospital Riverside</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>76:09:28</td>
<td>31:39:52</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loma Linda Univ Med Ctr Mur</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>52:10:21</td>
<td>3:29:30</td>
<td>86.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menifee Med Ctr</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>19:36:52</td>
<td>2:06:56</td>
<td>75.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Verde Hospital</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>7:36:33</td>
<td>0:17:40</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkview Community Hospital</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>43:37:34</td>
<td>3:52:52</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rancho Springs Med Ctr</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>48:54:51</td>
<td>11:05:24</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside Community Hospital</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>177:47:47</td>
<td>45:34:33</td>
<td>65.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside University Health Syste</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>109:54:44</td>
<td>3:33:34</td>
<td>90.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Gorgonio Mem Hospital</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>40:03:47</td>
<td>2:09:44</td>
<td>91.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temecula Valley Hospital</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>41:59:43</td>
<td>3:58:33</td>
<td>77.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,087</strong></td>
<td><strong>1166:36:51</strong></td>
<td><strong>235:47:48</strong></td>
<td><strong>591</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Transports and APOD Compliance by Hospital

![Graph showing transports and APOD compliance by hospital](image)

Key:
- **High**: Offloads within 30-min Standard
- **Low/Best**: APODs
AMBULANCE REDIRECTION

REMSA Policy 6104 allows redirection of ambulances away from hospitals experiencing significant Ambulance Patient Offload Delays (A POD) to the next most appropriate facility. Significant A POD is defined as a patient remaining on an ambulance gurney for 90 minutes or greater after arrival at the hospital (APOT > 90 min). Standard transfer of care is 30 minutes or less (APOT<30 min). Until the transfer of care is complete (patient is removed from the gurney and hospital staff assume care of the patient), ambulance crews must remain at the hospital and continue care. While patients held on excessive A PODs are generally those classified as lower acuity, approximately one-third of the County’s ~600 daily 9-1-1 medical responses are determined by dispatch as critical, requiring immediate medical attention (e.g. cardiac arrest, stroke, traumatic injury). As a result, excessive, or multiple A PODs within the same service area impact ambulance timeliness and availability in the field posing direct risk to 9-1-1 patient safety. Ambulance redirection is one strategy to reduce the consequential backlog of EMS services which occurs when there are excessive ambulance delays at hospital emergency departments. Below is the Week 18 countywide breakdown of A POD occurrences where ambulances were documented as held for greater than 90 minutes before transfer of care.

Patient Offload Delays Greater than 90 Minutes

- During Week 18, **58 ambulances were delayed greater than 90 minutes** — 4.9% DECREASE from the previous week’s total of 61.
EMERGENCY TREATMENT SERVICES

Transports to Emergency Treatment Services (ETS) comprise over 3% of overall transports. This is significant enough to impact the EMS system and, therefore, warrants reporting. However, transports to ETS do not meet the EMSA definitions for APOT (see page 10); therefore, they are not included with the previous APOT aggregates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ETS Snapshot - Week 18</th>
<th>Transports to ETS</th>
<th>Total Offload Time</th>
<th>APOD Hours</th>
<th>APODs</th>
<th>APOD Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Treatment Services</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>66:49:37</td>
<td>31:43:54</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart below represents Riverside County's total number of *ETS ambulance transports, patient offload delay (APOD), and percent compliance* for the current week and a rolling 15 weeks prior.

- During Week 18, there were a total of 55 ETS APODs greater than 30 minutes—a 37.5% INCREASE from the previous week’s total of 40 ETS APODs.
ILI - INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS RESPONSE

While influenza is detected year-round, it is most common during fall and winter. Increases in influenza-like-illness (ILI) generally begin in October and peak sometime between December and February (https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season.htm).

Hospital Emergency Departments (EDs) generally experience an increase in volume during flu season which, in turn, can impact Ambulance Patient Offload Time. The purpose of the Riverside County EMS system ILI (Influenza-like Illness) reporting is to improve tracking of influenza-related activity and facilitate EMS preparedness in the event of a significant surge event, similar or greater than that observed during the 2017-18 flu season.

The ILI trigger evaluates electronic patient report (ePCR) data using the following methodology:

1. Filters primary or secondary impression of code J11 (Influenza due to unidentified influenza virus) OR
2. A primary / secondary impression code J80, J98.09 (Acute respiratory distress syndrome, Respiratory disorder unspecified) with a match in the narrative for ILI, influenza like illness, Flu, Flu\-, Flu\+. or influenza OR
3. Any incident with a match in the narrative for ILI, influenza like illness, Flu, Flu\-, Flu\+. or influenza.

Week 40 (~October 1st) is defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as the expected start of increasing influenza activity, or “flu season”. Riverside County EMS Agency monitors influenza-like illness (ILI) year-round for better detection of seasonal or abnormal surges which can impact EMS utilization.
ILI - INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS RESPONSE (CONT.)

EMS ILI response two standard deviations above the calculated baseline average during non-peak flu seasons is considered a surge in flu activity. For the current Flu season 2020-’21, the standard deviation threshold value is not calculated as there was abnormal non-peak flu season behavior due to COVID-19. The threshold value listed in the graph is based on previous years non-peak flu season. Surges are identified as color levels adapted from the CDPH Standards and Guidelines for Healthcare Surge During Emergencies (actual response status for the EMS system may differ):

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/EPO/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FinalEOM712011.pdf

During Week 18, EMS ILI response is BELOW the two (2) standard deviation threshold compared to ILI activity during non-peak flu season levels (weeks 13-39).

IL-related EMS response in Riverside County, ePCR distribution map: Week 18
RIVERSIDE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS DATA

Riverside County Public Health Department – DOPH collects Emergency Department ILI activity data from the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) system as part of the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP). Fifteen of 17 Riverside County hospitals participate in ESSENCE. The graph below provides a comparison between Riverside County’s EMS ILI responses and Emergency Department (ED) ILI visits for the current year compared to the previous year.

EMS ILI responses and ED ILI visits as a percentage of their respective total volume – adapted from CDC methodology

For Riverside County Public Health Department Influenza Reporting, see https://www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/
HEAT-RELATED RESPONSE

Excessive heat exposure kills more people than any other weather-related phenomenon, aggravates chronic diseases, and causes direct heat illness.\textsuperscript{7,8,9,10} Relationships between extreme heat and health can be identified through increased hospitalizations, emergency department visits and demand for emergency medical services (EMS).

The graph below illustrates total EMS heat-related responses by week from 2020 through the current Week 18 and compares them against maximum temperature averages across Riverside County for the same week. Climate data is obtained from the National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - NOAA.

*Electronic Patient Record Data (ePCR) data collected from First Watch. * trigger for heat-related illness. **Trigger based on reported Primary Impression, Secondary Impression of "Heatstroke" or "Sunstroke" and injury related to Excessive Natural heat. ** Temperature data was collected for Riverside County from the NOAA Climate Data Online Search Database.

Heat-related EMS response in Riverside County, ePCR distribution map: Week 18
APOT AND APOD DEFINITIONS

9-1-1 Ambulance Response
For the purpose of reporting patient offload time and delays, only ground transport units responding to 9-1-1 incidents are included in this report. To avoid duplicate response counts, this excludes all records from First Responder Fire agencies also arriving on scene as part of Riverside County’s 9-1-1 dual medical response system. It also excludes interfacility transports and other call types such as air ambulance responses.

Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT)
The Time interval between the arrival of an 9-1-1 patient at an Emergency Department (ED) and the time that patient is transferred from the ambulance gurney to a bed, chair, or other acceptable location, and the ED assumes responsibility of care. The Clock Start (eTimes.11) is the time of patient arrival at the destination (hospital), and the Clock Stop (eTimes.12) is the time patient care is transferred. REMSA obtains both times from the ePCR.

Ambulance Patient Offload Delay (APOD)
Any delay in ambulance patient offload time (APOT) that exceeds the local ambulance patient offload time standard of 25/30 minutes (Riverside County EMS Agency applies a 30-minute standard). This shall also be synonymous with “non-standard patient offload time” as referenced in the Health and Safety Code. If the transfer of care and patient offload from the ambulance gurney exceeds the 30-minute standard, it will be documented and tracked as APOD. The Riverside County ePCR system requires medics to enter an “APOD Reason” when APOT exceeds the 30-minute standard. While the number of APODs documented as non-ED-related is nominal, beginning in Week-1 of 2022, only delays identified as having an ED origin are counted against APOD compliance for a more precise metric.

APOD Compliance
Frequency comparison between the total number of transports and those resulting in APODs with an ED-related origin.

Emergency Treatment Services (ETS) Ambulance Patient Offload Delay (APOD)
Transport to Emergency Treatment Services maintains the 30-minute offload standard, however, includes 9-1-1 and interfacility transports as approximately three-quarters are transported from other medical facilities.

Additional Data Definitions
Data in this report has been collected from ePCRs (electronic patient care reports) from FirstWatch® and are available after they have been completed by the provider. There is, therefore, an inherent latency to the availability of these records. Due to this latency, subsequent reports may feature slightly different aggregate numbers than earlier reports for the same reporting period. The difference is insignificant (averaging less than .1%) and does not impact overall compliance.

Data in this report includes all transports to the 17 hospitals monitored by REMSA in the respective week relative to the date and time the incident originates (eTimes.03–Dispatch Notified Date/Time). For example, if an incident originates on day-7 of the current reporting week, and the patient is subsequently transferred to the care of an emergency department after midnight which falls on day-1 of the subsequent week, that incident will be included in the current reporting week.

For inquiries, please contact EMS Administrator, TDouville@rivco.org
Current report prepared by Sudha Mahesh & Catherine Borna Farrokhi, Riverside County EMS Agency
-ESSENCE Emergency Department data compiled by Rick Lopez, Riverside County Department of Public Health

1 Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 1797.120(b)
3 Ibid., APOT-1 Specifications
8 CDC, Climate and Health Program. 2010. https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/default.htm