

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

465



**FROM:** FIRE

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
April 19, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Exempt the Fire Department from providing the "Notice of Privacy Practices" to medical emergency recipients

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors exempts the Fire Department from providing the "Notice of Privacy Practices" to medical emergency recipients as directed in Board policy B-23.

**BACKGROUND:** Board Policy B-23, Health Privacy and Security Policy, requires every department to safeguard the confidentiality and integrity of protected health information by providing a notice of legal duties and privacy practices with respect to health information. According to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the Fire Department is not considered a "covered entity."

Departmental Concurrence

\_\_\_\_\_  
John R. Hawkins, County Fire Chief

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE

BY:   
Robert Tremaine

**County Executive Office Signature**

- Policy
- Consent
- Policy
- Consent

Dept Recomm.:  
Per Exec. Ofc.:

3.23

RE: Exempt the Fire Department from providing the "Notice of Privacy Practices" to medical emergency recipients

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**BACKGROUND: (continued)**

A "covered entity", as defined by HIPAA (§106.103), is a health care provider who transmits any health information in electronic form in connection with a transmission of information between two parties to carry out financial or administrative activities related to health care. In short, the Fire Department does not bill or receive payment for medical emergencies and is therefore, not a "covered entity."

For the Fire Department to comply with the Board policy, we would be required to issue the seven (7) page notice outlined in the policy to anyone receiving emergency medical services. This would range from traffic accident patients, heart attacks, and all other types of medical emergencies that the Fire Department responds. The form would be issued on scene to a patient, who in some cases would be unconscious. We have historically received over 80,000 medical calls annually. The cost to provide this information is estimated to be over \$ 50,000 each year.

The Fire Department is requesting an exemption from this requirement in Board Policy B-23. The Department will abide by all other requirements outlined in the Board Policy.