

## Child Abuse

### 315.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the reporting of suspected child abuse.

### 315.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District to ensure law enforcement is notified of suspected child abuse as required by law.

### 315.3 MANDATORY NOTIFICATION

Members of the Blue Ridge Fire District shall notify law enforcement when there is a reasonable belief that a child is or has been the victim of abuse or neglect (ARS § 13-3620).

Any supervisor who reasonably believes that reportable abuse has occurred and has not been reported shall ensure that a report is made (ARS § 13-3620).

For purposes of notification, abuse and neglect includes physical injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, sexual offenses, denial of necessary care or nourishment, or a child found in any structure or vehicle where flammable chemicals or equipment is present for the purposes of manufacturing dangerous drugs (ARS § 13-3620; ARS § 13-3623; ARS § 8-201).

#### 315.3.1 NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Notification shall occur by telephone and include the following information, if known (ARS § 13-3620):

- (a) The name, address and age of the child
- (b) The name and address of the child's parents or other persons having custody of the child
- (c) The nature and extent of the alleged abuse or neglect
- (d) Any evidence of previous abuse or neglect
- (e) Any other information that may be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse or neglect

The district Emergency Medical Services supervisor should be notified of the incident as soon as practical. A written report shall be prepared and, if requested, forwarded to law enforcement.

If a child is being transported to a medical facility, the receiving center triage nurse or physician shall be notified of the situation upon the child's arrival.

Failure to report an incident of known or reasonably suspected child abuse or neglect by a mandated reporter may result in criminal charges and/or discipline (ARS § 13-3620).

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**315.4 CONFIDENTIALITY**

Reports of child abuse are confidential and will only be released in accordance with the Release of Records Policy (ARS § 13-3620).