

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
GUIDELINES FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

**SUBJECT: 600.02  
AIRWAY MANAGEMENT:  
USE OF OROPHARYNGEAL AND  
NASOPHARYNGEAL AIRWAYS**

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Use of adjunctive devices is indicated when the airway cannot be maintained by less invasive means or basic maneuvers (i.e.: head tilt-chin lift, jaw thrust).

- A. Nasopharyngeal airway: Measure the airway from the nare to the tip of the earlobe in the conscious patient, lubricate the tip of the airway with a water-soluble lubricant and insert the airway into the patient's largest nare. gently advance the airway. Slight rotation while advancing the airway may be helpful.
- B. Oropharyngeal airway: Use in the unconscious patient or the patient without a gag reflex. The mouth and pharynx may need to be suctioned and cleared of secretions. Measure the airway from the corner of the patient's mouth to the tip of the earlobe. Insert the airway by depressing the tongue with a tongue blade and advancing the airway over the tongue into the oropharynx.
- C. Assessment of proper position and patient response to the airway is imperative.

**STANDARD PRECAUTIONS MUST BE OBSERVED.**