

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

**SUBJECT: 700.01  
CARDIAC EMERGENCIES:  
UNIVERSAL CARDIAC CARE**

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**Pre-Hospital Actions:**

1. Assess ABC's and secure airway.
2. Sit patient up at 30 to 45 degrees unless hypotensive or place in position of comfort.
3. Loosen restrictive clothing.
4. Administer oxygen as needed to keep oxygen saturation > 94%.
5. Monitor vital signs; apply automated BP monitor if available.
6. Apply cardiac monitor, interpret initial rhythm and observe closely for changes.
7. Apply pulse oximeter if available and monitor oxygen saturation. Titrate oxygen delivery to maintain O<sub>2</sub> saturation of 95% or greater.
8. Start IV of Normal Saline at keep-vein-open rate.
9. Obtain history.
10. Perform physical exam including primary and secondary survey.
11. Perform 12-lead EKG if available. Transmit to hospital if capability available and suspect myocardial infarction.
12. Any patient found to have an acute myocardial infarction or who has sustained or sporadic episodes of a dangerous arrhythmia should have defibrillation pads placed in the appropriate position on the patient's chest.
13. Follow protocols to treat the patient.
14. Contact Medical Direction.

**Note:** These treatment and assessment parameters should be done simultaneously and accomplished within the first few minutes. They do not necessarily have to be done in this order, but they should all be accomplished rapidly.

**STANDARD PRECAUTIONS MUST BE OBSERVED.**