

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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Mutual Aid FAQ's

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Paramedic Questions:

1. I am a paramedic licensed and accredited in California and deployed to another county in California on mutual aid. Can I practice as a paramedic and what is my scope of practice?

When California licensed and accredited paramedics cross into another county for purposes of mutual aid, you are authorized to take your scope of practice, policies, and protocols with you according to your accrediting local EMS agency's policies.

2. I am a paramedic certified or licensed in a state outside California and deployed to California for mutual aid. Can I practice in California, and what is my scope?

For a paramedic licensed outside of California to work as a paramedic in California, you must meet the following criteria:

- a. Have a valid paramedic license/certificate issued by another state or country.
- b. Approval from the local medical director of the LEMSA to practice.
- c. Utilize the scope of practice you are licensed/certified in.
- d. Observe any limits placed on your scope of practice by the local medical director, should the local medical director exercise that option.

EMT Questions:

1. I am an EMT certified in California and deployed to another county in California on mutual aid. Can I practice as an EMT and what is my scope of practice?

When a California certified EMT crosses into another county for purposes of mutual aid, you are approved to utilize the skills that you are approved in and following the policies and protocols of the accrediting LEMSA that may exist.

2. I am an EMT certified in a state outside California and deployed into California for mutual aid, can I practice in California and what is my scope?

For an EMT certified outside of California to work as an EMT in California, you must meet the following criteria:

- a. Have either a Nationally Registered EMT (NREMT) OR are in possession of a valid EMT license/certificate from one of the following:
 - i. Any branch of the Armed Forces (including the US Coast Guard)

- ii. The National Park Service
 - iii. The Bureau of Land Management
 - iv. The US Forest Service
 - v. Another state
- b. Approval from the local medical director of the LEMSA to practice.
 - c. Utilize the scope of practice you are licensed/certified in.
 - d. Observe any limits placed on your scope of practice by the local medical director, should the local medical director exercise that option.

Mutual Aid Requests Into and Out of State:

1. I am the medical unit leader at a campaign fire, what do I have to do to get out-of-state EMTs and paramedics for mutual aid, and authorized to practice?

In order to have out-of-state EMTs or paramedics authorized to practice within California, you must have approval and recognition from the LEMSA medical director. Complete the *REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY RECOGNITION OF OUT-OF-STATE EMS PERSONNEL RESPONDING ON MUTUAL AID IN CALIFORNIA* form and fax to the LEMSA in the jurisdiction where you are located. The medical director must approve all EMTs and paramedics coming into the LEMSA to provide mutual aid within their jurisdiction.

2. I am a California licensed paramedic or certified EMT, and I want to provide mutual aid in another state. What do I need to do to be approved to practice?

In order to practice in another state for purposes of mutual aid, you must contact that state for their requirements. Each state may have different requirements for recognizing out of state providers. California currently has no mutual aid agreements with other states for automatic recognition.

For more detailed answers, please refer to EMSA publication #301 [EMS Personnel Mutual Aid Compendium](#) on the [Guidelines and Publications page](#).