

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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November 5, 2015

Richard Murdock, Executive Director
Mountain Valley EMS Agency
1101 Standiford Avenue, Suite D1
Modesto, CA 95350

Dear Mr. Murdock:

This letter is in response to the 2011 Mountain Valley EMS Plan Update submission to the EMS Authority.

I. Introduction and Summary:

The EMS Authority has concluded its review of Mountain Valley EMS Agency's 2011 EMS Plan Update and is approving the plan as submitted.

II. History and Background:

The EMS Authority is responsible for the review of EMS Plans and making a determination on the approval or disapproval of the plan based on compliance with statute and the standards and guidelines established by the EMS Authority consistent with Health & Safety Code § 1797.105(b).

Additionally, California Health and Safety (H&S) Code § 1797.254 states:

*"Local EMS agencies shall **annually** (emphasis added) submit an emergency medical services plan for the EMS area to the authority, according to EMS Systems, Standards, and Guidelines established by the authority".*

Historically, we have received EMS Plan documentation from Mountain Valley EMS Agency in the following years: 1996, 1999-2002, 2004, 2005, 2007-2010 and, most current, its 2011 plan update submission. Mountain Valley EMS Agency received its last Five-Year EMS Plan (partial) approval for its 2005 submission and its last annual plan update approval for its 2010 submission.

III. Analysis of EMS System Components:

Following are comments related to Mountain Valley EMS Agency's 2011 EMS Plan Update. Areas that indicate the plan submitted is concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations and H&S Code § 1797.254 and the EMS system components identified in H&S Code § 1797.103 are indicated below:

A. Approved Not Approved System Organization and Management

1. System Assessment Forms

- Standard 1.22 (Reporting of Abuse):

The objective is to draft a policy for suspected SIDS deaths and the timeframe for meeting the objective is referenced as long-range, whereas Table 1 references short-range. In your next plan submission please provide an update on the progress for developing the policy while also ensuring the timeframes on Table 1, System Assessment Forms and/or Progress/Objective Forms are consistent.

- Standard 4.05 (Response Time Standards):

The objective is to create a mechanism to measure response times from receipt of call, to primary PSAP, to arrival on-scene. In your next plan submission, please provide an update on the progress for developing response time standards.

- Standard 5.06 (Response Time Standards):

The objective is to work with hospitals to develop a standardized hospital evacuation plan. In your next plan submission, please provide an update on the progress for developing the plan.

2. Progress/Objectives Assessment / Table 1 (Minimum Standards and Recommended Guidelines)

- Standard 1.09 (Inventory of Resources):

The status indicates not meeting the established minimum standard. Based on the information provided in the Progress/Objectives Assessment, it has been determined that the minimum standard is now met. In your next plan submission, please change the System Assessment Forms, Progress/Objectives Assessment and Table 1 to reflect this change.

3. Table 2 (Minimum Standards and Recommended Guidelines)

- Expenses:

The total expense amount identified in the budget does not accurately reflect the sum of the expenses listed. In your next plan submission, please ensure the expense amounts are correct.

- Organizational Charts:

The organizational charts were not included as part of the plan submission. In your next plan submission, please ensure the chart is included as part of Table 2.

- B. Staffing/Training
- C. Communications
- D. Response/Transportation

1. Ambulance Zones

- Please see the attachment on the EMS Authority's determination of the exclusivity of Mountain Valley EMS Agency's ambulance zones.

E. Facilities/Critical Care

1. Table 6 (Facilities/Critical Care)

- The number of EMS patients meeting trauma triage who were not at a trauma center is reflected as 'unknown'. In your next submission plan, please provide the requested data.
- The data provided for basic emergency services is inconsistent with the information presented for the facilities in Table 9. In the next plan submission, please ensure the data contained in both tables is consistent.

2. Table 9 (Facilities)

- All service categories are checked for each facility. In the next plan submission, please check only one service category, as applicable. This information should be referenced in Table 6.

F. Data Collection/System Evaluation

G. Public Information and Education

1. Table 10 (Approved Training Program)

- The cost of the EMT program is not identified for Murphy's Fire Protection District. In the next plan submission, please include the associated cost.
- The costs of the refresher EMT programs are not identified for Ceres Adult Education-ROP and Abrams College. In the next submission, please include the associated costs.

H. Disaster Medical Response

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IV. Conclusion:

Based on the information identified, Mountain Valley EMS Agency may implement areas of the 2011 EMS Plan Update that have been approved. Pursuant to H&S Code § 1797.105(b):

“After the applicable guidelines or regulations are established by the Authority, a local EMS agency may implement a local plan...unless the Authority determines that the plan does not effectively meet the needs of the persons served and is not consistent with the coordinating activities in the geographical area served, or that the plan is not concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, or both the guidelines and regulations established by the Authority.”

V. Next Steps:

Mountain Valley EMS Agency's annual EMS Plan Update will be due on November 5, 2016. If you have any questions regarding the plan review, please contact Jeff Schultz, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Amley". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a small flourish at the end.

Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director

Attachment

