

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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April 3, 2018

Mr. Clarence Teem, EMS Coordinator
Tuolumne County EMS Agency
20111 Cedar Road North
Sonora, CA 95370

Dear Mr. Teem:

This letter is in response to Tuolumne County's 2017 EMS Plan Update submission to the EMS Authority on July 10, 2017.

I. Introduction and Summary:

The EMS Authority has concluded its review of Tuolumne County's 2017 EMS Plan Update and is approving the plan as submitted.

II. History and Background:

Tuolumne County received its last full plan approval for its 2014 plan submission, and its last annual plan update for its 2009 plan submission.

Historically, we have received EMS Plan submissions from Tuolumne County for the following years:

- 1999
- 2001
- 2002
- 2004-2008
- 2010-2014

Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 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".*

The EMS Authority is responsible for the review of EMS Plans and for 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 HSC § 1797.105(b).

III. Analysis of EMS System Components:

Following are comments related to Tuolumne County's 2017 EMS Plan Update. Areas that indicate the plan submitted is concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, HSC § 1797.254, and the EMS system components identified in HSC § 1797.103, are indicated below:

Approved Not
Approved

A. System Organization and Management

B. Staffing/Training

System Assessment Form

- Standard 2.04 does not currently meet the minimum standard. In the next plan submission, please include an update on the progress made to meet the standard.

C. Communications

System Assessment Form

- Standard 3.09 does not currently meet the minimum standard. In the next plan submission, please include an update on the progress made to meet the standard.

D. Response/Transportation

System Assessment Form

- Standard 4.03 does not currently meet the minimum standard. In the next plan submission, please include an update on the progress made to meet the standard.

Ambulance Zones

- Based on the documentation provided by Tuolumne County, please find enclosed the EMS Authority's determination of the exclusivity of Tuolumne County's ambulance zones.

E. Facilities/Critical Care

System Assessment Forms

- The objective for Standard 5.02 is to develop stroke triage criteria. In the next plan submission, please include an update on the progress made to meet the standard.
- The objective for Standard 5.03 is to develop a resource guide for specialty services available in neighboring EMS systems. In the next plan submission, please include an update on the progress made to meet the standard.

F. Data Collection/System Evaluation

System Assessment Form

- Standard 6.04 does not currently meet the minimum standard. In the next plan submission, please include an update on the progress made to meet the standard.

G. Public Information and Education

H. Disaster Medical Response

IV. Conclusion:

Based on the information identified, Tuolumne County's 2017 EMS Plan Update is approved.

Pursuant to HSC § 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


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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:

Tuolumne County's next annual EMS Plan Update will be due on or before October 1, 2018. If you have any questions regarding the plan review, please contact Ms. Lisa Galindo, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom", enclosed in a blue oval.

Thomas McGinnis, EMT-P
Chief, EMS Systems Division

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency was created by the Board of Supervisors as a department within the Human Services Agency on July 1, 1997, in order to fulfill the responsibilities of a local EMS agency as contained in Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5 et seq. By statute, the primary responsibility of the Tuolumne County EMS Agency is to plan, implement and evaluate an emergency medical services system, in accordance with the provisions of Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code, consisting of an organized pattern of readiness and response services based on public and private agreements and operational procedures. Section 1797.254 of the Health and Safety Code requires local EMS agencies to annually submit a plan for their EMS area to the State EMS Authority. These plans must be consistent with the EMS System Standards and Guidelines established by the EMS Authority.

In general, the EMS system for Tuolumne County is a stable system that provides efficient and timely prehospital emergency medical services to its residents and visitors through universal 9-1-1 access; county, special district and city first response agencies; Tuolumne County Ambulance, Petroleum Helicopters Inc. (PHI); out of county response from Mercy Ambulance; neighboring air ambulance providers; one acute care hospital located within the county; and tertiary medical centers located outside the county. With this in mind, there remain parts of the EMS system requiring both minor and major improvements.

The Tuolumne County EMS System currently meets or exceeds 115 of the State EMS Authority's 121 minimum standards and recommended guidelines. Medical Dispatch accounts for every one of the six standards and recommended guidelines not met by Tuolumne County.

Medical Dispatch: Implementing an emergency medical dispatch (EMD) program based remains the major challenge for Tuolumne County. Cost and manpower issues are the major road blocks to implementing an EMD program.

Accomplishment:

- NEMSIS and CEMSIS compliant e-PCR system implemented
- Quality Assurance Plan approved by EMSA
- Treatment Guidelines updated

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINE

A. SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Agency Administration:						
1.01	LEMSA Structure		X			
1.02	LEMSA Mission		X			
1.03	Public Input		X			
1.04	Medical Director		X			
Planning Activities:						
1.05	System Plan		X			
1.06	Annual Plan Update		X			
1.07	Trauma Planning*		X			
1.08	ALS Planning*		X			
1.09	Inventory of Resources		X			
1.10	Special Populations		X			
1.11	System Participants		X			
Regulatory Activities:						
1.12	Review & Monitoring		X			
1.13	Coordination		X			
1.14	Policy & Procedures Manual		X			
1.15	Compliance w/Policies		X			
System Finances:						
1.16	Funding Mechanism		X			
Medical Direction:						
1.17	Medical Direction*		X			
1.18	QA/QI		X			
1.19	Policies, Procedures, Protocols		X			

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINE

A. SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
1.20	DNR Policy		X			
1.21	Determination of Death		X			
1.22	Reporting of Abuse		X			
1.23	Interfacility Transfer		X			
Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support						
1.24	ALS Systems		X			
1.25	On-Line Medical Direction		X			
Enhanced Level: Trauma Care System:						
1.26	Trauma System Plan		X			
Enhanced Level: Pediatric Emergency Medical and Critical Care System:						
1.27	Pediatric System Plan		X			
Enhanced Level: Exclusive Operating Areas:						
1.28	EOA Plan	N/A				

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARD RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

B. STAFFING/TRAINING

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Local EMS Agency:						
2.01	Assessment of Needs		X			
2.02	Approval of Training		X			
2.03	Personnel		X			
Dispatchers:						
2.04	Dispatch Training	X				X
First Responders (non-transporting):						
2.05	First Responder Training		X			
2.06	Response		X			
2.07	Medical Control		X			
Transporting Personnel:						
2.08	EMT-I Training		X			
Hospital:						
2.09	CPR Training		X			
2.10	Advanced Life Support		X			
Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support:						
2.11	Accreditation Process		X			
2.12	Early Defibrillation		X			
2.13	Base Hospital Personnel		X			

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARD / RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

C. COMMUNICATIONS

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Communications Equipment:						
3.01	Communication Plan*		X			
3.02	Radios		X			
3.03	Interfacility Transfer*		X			
3.04	Dispatch Center		X			X
3.05	Hospitals		X			
3.06	MCI/Disasters		X			
Public Access:						
3.07	9-1-1 Planning/Coordination		X			
3.08	9-1-1 Public Education		X			
Resource Management:						
3.09	Dispatch Triage	X				X
3.10	Integrated Dispatch		X			X

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARD RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

D. RESPONSE/TRANSPORTATION

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Universal Level:						
4.01	Service Area Boundaries*		X			
4.02	Monitoring		X			
4.03	Classifying Medical Requests	X				X
4.04	Prescheduled Responses		X			
4.05	Response Time*		X			
4.06	Staffing		X			
4.07	First Responder Agencies		X			
4.08	Medical & Rescue Aircraft*		X			
4.09	Air Dispatch Center		X			
4.10	Aircraft Availability*		X			
4.11	Specialty Vehicles*		X			
4.12	Disaster Response		X			
4.13	Intercounty Response*		X			
4.14	Incident Command System		X			
4.15	MCI Plans		X			
Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support:						
4.16	ALS Staffing		X			
4.17	ALS Equipment		X			
Enhanced Level: Ambulance Regulation:						
4.18	Compliance		X			
Enhanced Level: Exclusive Operating Permits:						
4.19	Transportation Plan	N/A				
4.20	"Grandfathering"	N/A				
4.21	Compliance	N/A				
4.22	Evaluation	N/A				

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARD / RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

E. FACILITIES/CRITICAL CARE

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Universal Level:						
5.01	Assessment of Capabilities		X			
5.02	Triage & Transfer Protocols*		X			
5.03	Transfer Guidelines*		X			
5.04	Specialty Care Facilities*		X			
5.05	Mass Casualty Management		X			
5.06	Hospital Evacuation*		X			
Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support:						
5.07	Base Hospital Designation*		X			
Enhanced Level: Trauma Care System:						
5.08	Trauma System Design		X			
5.09	Public Input		X			
Enhanced Level: Pediatric Emergency Medical and Critical Care System:						
5.10	Pediatric System Design		X			
5.11	Emergency Departments		X			
5.12	Public Input		X			
Enhanced Level: Other Specialty Care Systems:						
5.13	Specialty System Design		X			
5.14	Public Input		X			