EMS Personnel Mutual Aid Compendium

Emergency Medical Services Authority
California Health and Human Services Agency

EMSA # 301
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Introduction

PURPOSE
To clarify the existing laws and regulations pertaining to when and under what conditions a Paramedic, AEMT or EMT, whether licensed/certified inside or outside California, may legally function in their respective EMS classification during transport, mutual aid and disasters in California.

LEGAL AUTHORITY
Health & Safety Code, Section 1797.170(b)
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9:
- Chapter 2 (EMT), §100061, §100062(c), §100064(a) (c) and (i)
- Chapter 3 (AEMT), §100126(a)
- Chapter 4 (Paramedic), §100142, §100145(c), §100146(b), §100166(a) and (l)

DEFINITION OF MUTUAL AID
In general, mutual aid is the concept of resource sharing in which similar organizations assist each other during emergencies and day-to-day operations. For the purposes of this document, mutual aid will encompass the following:

**Auto/Instant Aid**
Agreements between two or more jurisdictions where the nearest available resource is dispatched to an emergency irrespective of jurisdictional boundaries or where two or more agencies are automatically dispatched simultaneously to predetermined types of emergencies. This type of mutual aid agreement is typically utilized on a day-to-day basis.

**Mutual Aid**
Agreements between two or more jurisdictions to provide assistance across jurisdictional boundaries, when requested, as a result of the circumstances of an emergency exceeding local resources.

**Disaster Assistance**
Similar to mutual aid but are requests for assistance in the event that a disaster overwhelms local resources. These requests may be under existing mutual aid agreements or the result of unforeseen needs arising from a particularly large-scale disaster.
Scope of Practice During Mutual Aid

CALIFORNIA EMS PERSONNEL
The rules for California licensed/certified EMS personnel are the same regardless of whether for daily response and transport needs (includes auto/instant aid, mutual aid, inter-facility transport and aero-medical transport) or in response to a declared disaster or major wildfire. The following are the rules for California EMS personnel responding outside their jurisdiction.

Paramedic
California Paramedics may utilize their approved scope of practice anywhere in California during a mutual aid call provided all of the following conditions are met:

a. They are in possession of a valid California Paramedic License
b. They are accredited by a local EMS agency
c. They are affiliated with an ALS provider that is approved by the local EMS agency with whom they are accredited
d. They utilize the scope of practice for which s/he is trained and accredited according to the policies and procedures established by his/her accrediting local EMS agency, which shall include an “Out-Of-County Response” Policy.

AEMT
California AEMTs may utilize their approved scope of practice anywhere in California during mutual aid call provided all of the following conditions are met:

a. They are in possession of a valid California AEMT Certificate
b. They are accredited by a local EMS agency
c. They are affiliated with an LALS or ALS provider that is approved by the local EMS agency with whom they are accredited
d. They utilize the scope of practice as defined by the policies and procedures established by the local EMS agency with whom they are accredited

EMT
A California certified EMT is recognized as an EMT statewide regardless of where in California they are certified. EMTs may utilize optional scope of practice skills as long as they follow the policies and procedures established by the local EMS agency with whom they are accredited to for those skills. EMTs may utilize their EMT Scope of Practice in a volunteer capacity and for any provider. There is no requirement for an EMT to be affiliated with a provider.

OUT-OF-STATE EMS PERSONNEL
The rules for out-of-state licensed/certified EMS personnel are the same regardless of whether for daily response and transport needs (includes auto/instant aid, mutual aid, inter-facility transport and aero-medical transport) or in response to a declared disaster
or major wildfire. The following are the rules for out-of-state EMS personnel (excluding federally or tribal licensed/certified personnel) responding/operating in California.

**Paramedic**
An out-of-state Paramedic may temporarily practice in California provided all of the following conditions are met:

- a. They are in possession of a valid Paramedic license/certificate issued by another state or country
- b. They are approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency to practice in jurisdiction of the local EMS system
- c. They may utilize the scope of practice as defined by the jurisdiction with whom they are licensed/certified
- d. They will observe any limits placed on their scope of practice by the local medical director, should the local medical director exercise that option

There is no requirement for an out-of-state Paramedic to be affiliated with an approved ALS provider.

**AEMT**
There is no provision in either California Statute or Regulations for non-California AEMTs to temporarily practice in California.

**EMT**
An out-of-state EMT may temporarily practice in California provided all of the following conditions are met:

- a. They are either a Nationally Registered EMT (NREMT) OR are in possession of a valid EMT license/certificate issued by one of the following agencies of the federal government:
  
  1) Any branch of the Armed Forces (including the US Coast Guard)
  2) The National Park Service
  3) The Bureau of Land Management
  4) The US Forest Service

- b. They are approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency to practice in jurisdiction of the local EMS system
- c. They may utilize the scope of practice as defined by the jurisdiction with whom they are licensed/certified
- d. They will observe any limits placed on their scope of practice by the local medical director, should the local medical director exercise that option

**FEDERAL EMS PERSONNEL**
The rules for federally licensed/certified EMS personnel are the same regardless of whether for daily response and transport needs (includes auto/instant aid, mutual aid, inter-facility transport and aero-medical transport) or in response to a declared disaster or major wildfire. The following are the rules for federally licensed/certified EMS
personnel responding/operating on non-federal land in California or on federal lands that are part of the local EMS system. Federal EMS personnel responding on federal lands that are not part of the local EMS system do not need to notify the local medical director.

**Paramedic**
A Paramedic who is licensed/certified by a federal entity or who is under the jurisdiction of the federal government may temporarily practice in California provided all of the following conditions are met:

a. They are in possession of a valid Paramedic license/certificate issued by the either federal government or another state or country
b. They are approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency to practice in jurisdiction of the local EMS system
c. They may utilize the scope of practice as defined by the jurisdiction with whom they are licensed/certified
d. They will observe any limits placed on their scope of practice by the local medical director, should the local medical director exercise that option

**AEMT**
There is no provision in either California Statute or Regulations for non-California EMT-IIs to temporarily practice in California.

**EMT**
An out-of-state EMT may temporarily practice in California provided all of the following conditions are met:

a. They are either a Nationally Registered EMT (NREMT) OR are in possession of a valid EMT license/certificate issued by one of the following agencies of the federal government:
   1) Any branch of the Armed Forces (including the US Coast Guard)
   2) The National Park Service
   3) The Bureau of Land Management
   4) The US Forest Service

b. They are approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency to practice in jurisdiction of the local EMS system
c. They may utilize the scope of practice as defined by the jurisdiction with whom they are licensed/certified
d. They will observe any limits placed on their scope of practice by the local medical director, should the local medical director exercise that option

**TRIBAL EMS PERSONNEL**
This section applies only to tribal EMS personnel when the tribe is NOT part of the local EMS system and who issue their own tribal EMS licenses and certifications. EMS personnel from tribes that do not issue their licenses/certifications would fall into one of
the above categories based on where they are licensed/certified. The rules for Tribally licensed/certified EMS personnel are the same regardless of whether for daily response and transport needs (includes auto/instant aid, mutual aid, inter-facility transport and aero-medical transport) or in response to a declared disaster or major wildfire. The following are the rules for tribal EMS personnel responding/operating in California outside their tribal lands.

**Paramedic**
A tribally licensed/certified Paramedic may temporarily practice in California provided all of the following conditions are met:

a. They are in possession of a valid Paramedic license/certificate issued by the either federal government or another state or country  
b. They are approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency to practice in jurisdiction of the local EMS system  
c. They may utilize the scope of practice as defined by the jurisdiction with whom they are licensed/certified  
d. They will observe any limits placed on their scope of practice by the local medical director, should the local medical director exercise that option

**AEMT**
There is no provision in either California Statute or Regulations for non-California EMT-IlIs to temporarily practice in California.

**EMT**
When approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency a tribally licensed/certified EMT may temporarily utilize the Scope of Practice for which they have been trained only if they are also a Nationally Registered EMT (NREMT).
Appendix A: Decision Trees for License/Certification Recognition
EMT RECOGNITION FOR CALIFORNIA MUTUAL AID

EMT Currently Certified in California?

Yes

May Utilize Basic Scope of Practice And Optional Skills According to LEMSA Policy

No

Nationally Registered (NREMT) EMT-Basic?

Yes

No

Certified by Another State?

Yes

Certified by US Armed Forces, Coast Guard, BLM, NPS, or USFS?

Yes

May Practice Only With LEMSA Approval Utilizing Scope of Practice Where Licensed or Certified

No

Cannot Utilize EMT Scope of Practice

Legend
BLM – Bureau of Land Management
NPS – National Parks Service
USFS – US Forest Service
AEMT RECOGNITION FOR CALIFORNIA MUTUAL AID

AEMT Currently Certified in California?

Yes

Functioning Under Affiliation With an Approved AEMT Provider in California?

No

May Practice as an EMT Only

No

Cannot Practice as an EMT-Intermediate or AEMT

Yes

May Utilize Approved Scope of Practice
PARAMEDIC RECOGNITION FOR CALIFORNIA MUTUAL AID

Paramedic Licensed in California?
- Yes: Accredited By a LEMS?
  - Yes: Functioning Under Affiliation With Approved ALS Provider in California?
    - Yes: May Utilize Scope of Practice According to Accrediting LEMS Policy
    - No: Cannot Utilize Paramedic Scope, May Only Function as an EMT
  - No: Cannot Utilize Paramedic or EMT Scope of Practice
- No: Valid License From Other State, Country, Federal Govt?
  - Yes: May Practice Only With LEMS Approval Utilizing Scope of Practice Where Licensed or Certified
  - No: Cannot Utilize Paramedic Scope, May Only Function as an EMT
Appendix B: Referenced California Code and Regulations
Health & Safety Code

Section 1797.170(b)

“Any individual certified as an EMT-I pursuant to this act shall be recognized as an EMT-I on a statewide basis, and recertification shall be based on statewide standards. Effective July 1, 1990, any individual certified as an EMT-I pursuant to this act shall complete a course of training on the nature of sudden infant death syndrome which is developed by the California SIDS program in the State Department of Health Services in consultation with experts in the field of sudden infant death syndrome.”

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Title 22, Division 9:

CHAPTER 2. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

§ 100061. Local Accreditation.

“Local accreditation” or “accreditation” or “accredited to practice” as used in this Chapter, means authorization by the LEMSA to practice the optional skill(s) specified in Section 100064. Such authorization assures that the EMT has been oriented to the LEMSA and trained in the optional skill(s) necessary to achieve the treatment standard of the jurisdiction.

§ 100062. Application of Chapter to Operation of Ambulances.

(c) EMTs who are not currently certified in California may temporarily perform their scope of practice in California, when approved by the medical director of the LEMSA, in order to provide emergency medical services in response to a request, if all the following conditions are met:

(1) The EMTs are registered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians or licensed or certified in another state or under the jurisdiction of a branch of the Armed Forces including the Coast Guard of the United States, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management, or the United States Forest Service; and

(2) The EMTs restrict their scope of practice to that for which they are licensed or certified.

§ 100064. EMT Optional Skills.

(a) In addition to the activities authorized by Section 100063 of this Chapter, LEMSA may establish policies and procedures for local accreditation of an EMT student or certified EMT to perform any or all of the following optional skills specified in this section.

(c) The medical director of the LEMSA shall develop a plan for each optional skill allowed. The plan shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(2) A description of the geographic area within which the optional skill will be utilized, except as provided in Section 100064(l).
(i) During a mutual aid response into another jurisdiction, an EMT may utilize the scope of practice for which s/he is trained, certified and accredited according to the policies and procedures established by his/her certifying or accrediting LEMSA.

CHAPTER 3. ADVANCED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

§100106 Advanced EMT Scope of Practice

(c) During a mutual aid response into another jurisdiction, an Advanced EMT may utilize the scope of practice for which s/he is trained and certified according to the policies and procedures established by his/her certifying LEMSA.

§ 100126. Advanced EMT Service Provider.

(a) A LEMSA with a LALS system, shall establish policies and procedures for the approval, designation and evaluation through its EMSQIP of Advanced EMT service provider(s). These policies and procedures shall include provisions requiring an Advanced EMT to be affiliated with an approved Advanced EMT service provider in order to perform the scope of practice specified in this Chapter.

CHAPTER 4. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-PARAMEDIC

§ 100142. Local Accreditation.

"Local Accreditation" or "accreditation" or "accreditation to practice" means authorization by the local EMS agency to practice as a paramedic within that jurisdiction. Such authorization indicates that the paramedic has completed the requirements of Section 100165 of this Chapter.

§ 100145. Application of Chapter.

(c) A paramedic who is not licensed in California may temporarily perform his/her scope of practice in California on a mutual aid response, on routine patient transports from out of state into California, or during a special event, when approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency, if the following conditions are met:

(1) The paramedic is licensed or certified in another state/country or under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

(2) The paramedic restricts his/her scope of practice to that for which s/he is licensed or certified.

(3) Medical control as specified in Section 1798 of the Health and Safety Code is maintained in accordance with policies and procedures established by the medical director of the local EMS agency.

§ 100146. Scope of Practice of Paramedic.
(b) A paramedic shall be affiliated with an approved paramedic service provider in order to perform the scope of practice specified in this Chapter.

§ 100166. Accreditation to Practice.
(a) In order to be accredited an individual shall:
(1) Possess a current California paramedic license.
(2) Apply to the local EMS agency for accreditation.
(3) Successfully complete an orientation of the local EMS system as prescribed by the local EMS agency which shall include policies and procedures, treatment protocols, radio communications, hospital/facility destination policies, and other unique system features. The orientation shall not exceed eight classroom hours, except when additional hours are needed to accomplish subsection (a)(4) of this section, and shall not include any further testing of the paramedic basic scope of practice. Testing shall be limited to local policies and treatment protocols provided in the orientation.
(4) Successfully complete training in any local optional scope of practice for which the paramedic has not been trained and tested.
(l) During a mutual aid response into another jurisdiction, a paramedic may utilize the scope of practice for which s/he is trained and accredited according to the policies and procedures established by his/her accrediting local EMS agency.
Appendix C: Sample Request for Temporary Recognition of Out-of-State EMS Personnel Form
REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY RECOGNITION OF OUT-OF-STATE EMS PERSONNEL RESPONDING ON MUTUAL AID IN CALIFORNIA

(Print or type all information, Use additional forms as necessary)

Out-of-state EMS personnel must obtain authorization from the Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) where they will be working before they may practice in California. Under California Law, out-of-state EMS personnel who have received authorization may utilize the scope of practice for which they have been licensed/certified.

Authorization for temporary recognition is requested for the following medical personnel assigned to:

INCIDENT: __________________________ in the COUNTY(s) of: __________________________

under the jurisdiction of the following LEMSAs: ________________________________________

beginning on __________________________ and ending on __________________________

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I attest that I have physically examined the certification/licenses of the above individuals.

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<th>Agency</th>
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Appendix D: LEMSA Information
LOCAL EMS AGENCY LISTING
(As of 6/26/2018, for a more up to date list visit the EMS Authority’s web page)

Alameda County
1000 San Leandro Blvd., Ste. 200
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 618-2050
FAX: (510) 618-2099
http://www.acphd.org/ems.aspx

Central California
(Fresno, Kings, Madera, Tulare)
PO Box 11867, Fresno, CA 93775
(559) 600-3387
FAX: (559) 600-7691
http://www.ccemsa.org/

Coastal Valleys
(Sonoma/Mendocino)
195 Concourse Blvd.,
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-6501
FAX: (707) 565-6510
http://www.sonoma-county.org/cvrems/

Contra Costa County
1340 Arnold Drive, Suite 126
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 646-4690
FAX: (925) 646-4379
http://www.cccems.org/

El Dorado County
2900 Fair Lane Court,
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-6500
FAX: (530) 621-2758
http://www.edcgov.us/ems

Imperial County
935 Broadway Ave El Centro, CA 92243
(442) 265-1364
FAX: (760) 482-4517
http://www.icphd.com/emergency-medical-services/

Inland Counties (ICEMA)
(San Bernardino, Inyo, Mono)
1425 South "D" St.
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0060
(909) 388-5823
FAX: (909) 388-5825
http://www.sbcounty.gov/icema

Kern County
Kern County Public Health Services
Dept., EMS Division
1800 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Bakersfield, CA 93306
(661) 868-5215
FAX: (661) 868-0225
http://kernpublichealth.com/ems/

Los Angeles County
10100 Pioneer Blvd., Suite 200
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 347-1604
FAX: (562) 941-5835
http://ems.dhs.lacounty.gov/

Marin County
1600 Los Gamos Dr., Suite 220
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 473-6871
FAX: (415) 473-3747
http://www.marinems.org/

Merced County
260 East 15th St.
Merced, CA 95341
(209) 381-1250
FAX: (209) 381-1259
http://www.co.merced.ca.us/index.asp?
NID=581

Monterey County
1441 Schilling Place, South Building
Salinas, CA 93906
(831) 755-5013
http://www.mocoems.org/
Mountain Valley
(Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Stanislaus)
1101 Standiford Ave. #D1
Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 529-5085
FAX: (209) 529-1496
http://www.mvemsa.com/

Napa County
2751 Napa Valley Corp. Dr., Bldg. B
Napa, CA 94558
Main: (707) 253-4341
Fax: (707) 299-4126
http://countyofnapa.org/ems

North Coast EMS Agency
(Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake)
3340 Glenwood Ave.
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 445-2081
FAX: (707) 445-0443
http://www.northcoastems.com/

Northern California
(Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra, Trinity)
930 Executive Way, Suite 150
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 229-3979
FAX: (530) 229-3984
http://www.norcalems.org/

Orange County
Emergency Medical Services
405 West Fifth St., Suite 301A
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 834-3500
FAX: (714) 834-3125
http://healthdisasteroc.org/ems/

Riverside County
4210 Riverwalk Parkway Suite 300
Riverside, CA 92505
(951) 358-5029
FAX: (951)358-5160
http://www.rivcoems.org/

Sacramento County
9616 Micron Ave, Ste 960
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 875-9753
FAX: (916) 875-9711
http://www.dhhs.saccounty.net/PRI/EMS/Pages/EMS-Home.aspx

San Benito County
471 Fourth Street
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 636-4168
FAX: (831) 636-4165
http://www.sanbenitoco.org/ems/

San Diego County
6255 Mission Gorge Rd.
San Diego, CA 92120
(619) 285-6524
http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/hhsa/programs/phs/emergency_medical_services/index.html

City and County of San Francisco
300 Van Ness Ave., Suite 3300
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 487-5000
FAX: (415) 552-0194
http://sfdem.org/ems-agency

San Joaquin County
P.O. Box 220,
French Camp, CA 95231-0220
(209) 468-6818
FAX: (209) 468-6725
http://www.sjgov.org/ems
San Luis Obispo County
2180 Johnson Ave., 2nd Floor
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 788-2512
FAX: (805) 788-2517
http://www.sloemsa.org/

San Mateo County
801 Gateway Blvd 2nd Floor
South San Francisco, CA 94080
(650) 573-2564
FAX: (650) 573-2029
http://www.smchealth.org/

Santa Barbara County
300 North San Antonio Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1316
(805) 681-5274
FAX: (805) 681-5142
http://cosb.countyofsfb.org/phd/ems.aspx?id=20620

Santa Clara County
700 Empey Way, San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 794-0610
FAX: (408) 792-1350
http://www.sccgov.org/sites/ems

Santa Cruz County
1080 Emeline Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-4751
FAX: (831) 454-4272

Sierra-Sacramento Valley
(Butte, Colusa, Nevada, Placer, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Yuba)
5995 Pacific St., Rocklin, CA 95677
(916) 625-1702
FAX: (916) 625-1730
http://www.ssvems.com/

Solano County
335 Tuolumne St.
Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 784-8155
FAX: (707) 421-6618
http://www.co.solano.ca.us/depts/ems/default.asp

Tuolumne County
20111 Cedar Road North
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-7460
FAX: (209) 533-7406

Ventura County
2220 E. Gonzales Rd., Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036-0619
(805) 981-5301
FAX: (805) 981-5300
http://www.vchca.org/ph/ems/

Yolo County
137 N. Cottonwood Street, Suite 2601
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8671
http://www.yolocounty.org/health-human-services/community-health/emergency-medical-services-ems