

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 322-1441



February 18, 2020

Mr. Jeff Fariss, EMS Program Manager
Kern County EMS Agency
1800 Mount Vernon Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Dear Mr. Fariss:

This letter is in response to Kern County's 2019 EMS Plan submission to the EMS Authority on December 11, 2019.

I. Introduction and Summary:

The EMS Authority has concluded its review of Kern County's 2019 EMS Plan and is approving the plan.

II. History and Background:

Kern County received its last plan approval for its 2018 plan submission.

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

- 1994
- 1999
- 2003
- 2006
- 2012
- 2015
- 2018

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, regulations, and case law, consistent with HSC § 1797.105(b).

III. Analysis of EMS System Components:

Following are comments related to Kern County's 2019 EMS Plan. Areas that indicate the plan submitted is concordant and consistent with applicable laws, regulations, case law, and the EMS system components identified in HSC § 1797.103, are indicated below:

- | | Approved | Not Approved | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| A. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>System Organization and Management</u> |
| B. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Staffing/Training</u> |
| C. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Communications</u> |
| D. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Response/Transportation</u> |

Ambulance Zones

Based on the documentation provided, please find enclosed the ground exclusive operating areas status, as compiled by the EMS Authority.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| E. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Facilities/Critical Care</u> |
| F. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Data Collection/System Evaluation</u> |
| G. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Public Information and Education</u> |
| H. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Disaster Medical Response</u> |

IV. Conclusion:

Based on the information identified, Kern County's 2019 EMS Plan 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 the geographical area served, or that the plan is not concordant and

Mr. Jeff Fariss, EMS Administrator
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consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, or both the guidelines and regulations established by the Authority.”

V. Next Steps:

Kern County's next EMS Plan will be due on or before February 13, 2021. If you have any questions regarding the plan review, please contact Ms. Lisa Galindo, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,



Tom McGinnis, EMT-P
Chief, EMS Systems Division

Enclosure



MATTHEW CONSTANTINE
DIRECTOR

1800 MT. VERNON AVENUE

BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA, 93306-3302

661-321-3000

WWW.KERNPUBLICHEALTH.COM

November 30, 2019

Dr. Dave Duncan, MD
Director, California EMS Authority
10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

KERN COUNTY EMS PLAN SUBMISSION

Dear Dr. Duncan:

In accordance with Section 1797.254 of the Health and Safety Code, please find enclosed Kern County EMS Program's EMS Plan Update for 2019. Included in this plan you will find copies of our STEMI Policy Update, Stroke Policy Update, Pediatric Receiving Center Policy Update, Trauma System Update and our Paramedic First Responder Policy for your review.

If you have any questions or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (661) 868-5216 or by email at farissj@kerncounty.com.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fariss

Digitally signed by Jeff Fariss
DN: cn=Jeff Fariss, o=Kern County Public
Health, ou=Emergency Medical Services,
email=farissj@kerncounty.com, c=US
Date: 2019.12.11 09:46:40 -0800

Jeff Fariss
EMS Program Manager

November 30, 2019

2019 EMS Plan Update – Kern County

Kern County EMS is pleased to present the 2019 EMS Plan Update. The purpose of this notice is to provide a summary of the contents of the EMS Plan Update and highlight some of the work the Program has completed and is working toward for the future.

2019 has been an exciting year that has brought many developments to our system. One such development was the creation of a system for the use of the discretionary portion of the Maddy Fund. EMS developed a request form that can be filled out and submitted from our website for requesting a piece of equipment, service or software that would tentatively improve the county EMS system. These requests are researched by EMS staff and a report that includes a recommendation is presented at the next EMCAB meeting.

From May 8th through May 13th, Kern County hosted the largest event in recent history in the Lightning in a Bottle Festival. This is a large music festival that attracts people from all over the United States as well as multiple countries. EMS Staff Members George Baker and Nick Lidgett were assigned to prepare EMS for this event. Together, they developed a comprehensive operations plan for this huge event that was shared with Kern County Fire, Sheriff, Behavioral Health, as well as our local ambulance services. EMS staff were present at the event 24hrs per day throughout to provide centralized dispatch of ambulances, ensure that the event promoters' medical plan was executed appropriately, to manage large scale incidents that might have occurred and assured the timely requisition of additional resources in the event they were needed. This was an extremely important event for Kern County and it was our goal to make sure that it was successful and had as little impact on our system as possible. As a result of our planning and participation in this event we saw only 6 ambulance transports, 5 AMA's, and 3 5150's during this huge event.

At approximately 10:33am, on July 4th, 2019, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck the desert outside of Ridgecrest. The EMS Department Operations Center was immediately activated and EMS staff responded and began disaster operations. The county wide Emergency Operations Center was activated very shortly thereafter and together we began the processes of managing the disaster.

EMS' role in managing this disaster included supporting the establishment of a shelter, ordering the transportation of supplies and nurses to respond to and man the shelter, contacting Public Health Nursing to begin the process of recruiting nurses to staff the shelter for an undetermined timeframe, contacting behavioral health and requesting CISM teams respond to provide psychiatric first aid and sending situational reports to the region preparing other areas in case we needed outside assistance. Additionally, The Kern Medical Reserve Corps were polled for volunteer availability. We received 137

responses of which 54 members indicated they were available and ready to respond. 4 registered nurses, 1 EMT, 1 Paramedic and 1 Physicians assistant were deployed and staffed the Kerr McGee Shelter for a total of 96 hours.

Shortly after the large temblor hit, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital notified us that they were evacuating the facility and requested an ambulance strike team. Hall Ambulance service was immediately contacted and provided 7 ambulances, the Disaster Medical Support Unit and one supervisor unit. These resources responded to Ridgecrest Regional Hospital and successfully evacuated 23 patients to other facilities.

At approximately 8:19pm on July, 5th, 2019, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck the Ridgecrest area again. For the second time in 36 hours, the EMS Department Operations Center and the countywide Emergency Operations Centers were activated.

During these two events the 911 call volume in the Ridgecrest area increased by 300%. Liberty ambulance did an outstanding job in managing the call volume over this period. On July 6th, a resource request was made by Ridgecrest Regional Hospital for a second ambulance strike team to respond to the Ridgecrest area in order to provide a break for the Liberty ambulance crews allowing them to get some, much needed, sleep and help relieve first responder fatigue.

The Kern County Fire Department responded to hundreds of calls for gas leaks, fires and assisted in the evacuation of Ridgecrest hospital on July 4th and continued to provide support for the community throughout the event. The Kern County Fire Department Operations Center that was activated on sight in Ridgecrest, was pivotal in assisting EMS in the communication with the hospital command center and vital in the organization of the evacuation.

From July 4th to July 7th, EMS staff manned both the Department Operations Center and the Emergency Operations Center 24 hours per day monitoring and providing resources as requested throughout the system. It should be noted that this is the second large scale disaster that Kern County EMS in conjunction with Kern County Fire, Hall Ambulance, Liberty ambulance as well as other county departments, has managed without needing to reach outside of our county for assistance.

I am very proud of my staff for the outstanding work they performed over these days in July, for their dedication to their work and to the county they service.

EMS is currently in the process of building a Duty Officer Response Vehicle that will act as a mobile command post allowing for response to incidents such as the Ridgecrest earth quakes providing eyes on scene for the MHOAC and thus allowing for a more accurate evaluation and response by EMS.

On October 9th, 2019, the Request for Proposal for Exclusive Operating Areas 1, 7 and 11 was presented to the public and distributed throughout the state. The RFP remained open for 45 days and we are expecting to complete the process and have new contracts signed by April of 2020.

On October 22nd, Kern County Public Health, Emergency Medical Services hosted the first of its kind, Mental Health Symposium focusing on overcoming PTSD for first responders. Featured speakers included San Diego Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Vernon, California National Guard Behavioral Health Officer Captain Danial Burns and licensed clinical social worker and division president for Aspire Behavioral Health Courtney S. Rayne. The over 300 attendees included 1st responders from Fire, Ambulance and Law enforcement were provided resources and began the discussion that hopefully will lead to a change in the culture of silence equaling strength. More than 20 1st responders reached out for assistance from the Kern Behavioral Health CISM team that was present and over 60 individuals have requested assistance in the weeks following the event.

EMS continues its efforts to teach the community hands only CPR, AED, and Stop the Bleed training. In 2019 so far, we have provided hands only cpr and stop the bleed training to hundreds of county employees, teachers and the general public.

EMS continues focusing our attention on Identifying trends and opportunities to improve the health and safety of the community. In 2019 we are implementing an Inappropriate 911 User Policy that should help cut down the number of repeated unnecessary transports.

First response is provided predominately through three (3) fire departments, and on limited availability the Sheriff's Office. Bakersfield City Fire Department provides primarily BLS first response with one ALS response engine. Kern County Fire Department provides BLS services, maintains station in the Pine Mountain Club and one station in Buttonwillow that provide ALS level service. In addition, Kern County Fire has an ALS squad that they staff intermittently for training purposes. California City Fire Department provides ALS first responder services. All three fire departments also operate Fireline Paramedic programs. Kern County Fire Department provides an ALS as well as BLS rescue helicopter services and Kern County Sheriff's Office provides BLS rescue helicopter services. The Sheriff's Office also provides BLS services as part of Search and Rescue teams, training division, and SWAT team operations.

Kern has ten (10) general acute care hospitals that provide basic or stand-by emergency services. The following is a summary of the hospitals providing services pertaining to the EMS system:

Adventist Health Hospital – Bakersfield

- Basic Emergency Services
- Base Hospital
- STEMI Receiving Center