

Section 7038
(October 2002)

7038	EMS
7038.1	Roles and Responsibility

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

7038

(October 2002)

The Department (CDF) is responsible for fire protection, contract fire protection, associated emergency services and assistance in civil disasters and other non-fire emergencies (PRC Sec. 713).

The Department (CDF) will provide comprehensive fire protection and other related emergency services, including the protection of life and property, on state responsibility areas (CDF Mission Statement).

The legislature has not only authorized CDF personnel to render, within their capabilities, rescue, first aid and emergency medical services at the scene of any medical emergency, the legislature encourages and expects them to do so (Atty. Gen OP 81-409).

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

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There are a number of conditions under which CDF may appropriately provide emergency medical services:

- California Emergency Plan

Pursuant to the Department's EMS support functions assigned by the Governor in time of disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, nuclear incidents, floods, fires and civil defense, CDF may be required to provide Emergency Medical Technicians (CEP, Annex D Sec. 4.4.1).

- Cooperative Agreements

CDF may provide emergency medical services under the terms of cooperative fire protection agreements. Normally, CDF direction to provide EMS in areas protected under cooperative agreement will be by resolution of the controlling board (Board of Supervisors, Directors, etc.). This will normally be at the Basic Life Support level.

- Higher levels of emergency medical services personnel, such as Emergency Medical Technician - II or Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P), may be provided with approval of the director (Atty. Gen. OP 81-588).

- First Responder

Available CDF resources will be dispatched directly to the scene of an emergency medical incident within areas where CDF has state or local fire protection responsibility.

CDF resources may be dispatched directly to the scene of an emergency medical incident at the request of the responsible agency, and if it were determined that CDF resources would be the first respondents at scene.

Within the limits of availability, CDF resources may be dispatched to emergency medical incidents where no other governmental unit has such responsibility.

- Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid

Subject to availability, CDF may provide rescue and emergency medical services on a mutual aid or automatic aid basis to other fire protection jurisdictions when requested. CDF may assist other governmental entities such as County Sheriff, CHP and military departments upon request.

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