



CAL FIRE

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER REFERENCE GUIDE

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Emergency Medical Services Program
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Introduction

The Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Reference Guide assists California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) EMR personnel and Unit/Program Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Training Officers regarding the EMR level of training.

Emergency Medical Responder Course Length

The course lengths are based on the recommendations of the National Emergency Medical Services Educational Standards, which have been adopted by the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA).

- Initial course 48 - 60 hours
- Refresher course 24 hours

Emergency Medical Responder Training Eligibility

CAL FIRE may issue certificates of completion and EMR cards to volunteer firefighters, paid-call firefighters, explorer scouts, or cadets at the EMR level of training. There are no regulations limiting to whom CAL FIRE may provide EMR training.

Verification of Completed Training

A certification or verification of training card is issued at the successful conclusion of the EMR course. CAL FIRE public safety personnel are required to maintain a minimum Emergency Medical Services (EMS) training level. See the 4000 CAL FIRE Training Handbook for the minimum EMS training required for each CAL FIRE classification. Due to contractual obligations, some Units/Programs require a higher level of EMS training/certification/licensure than listed in the program guides. Check with Unit/Program for current requirements.

Emergency Medical Responder Application Database

The Emergency Medical Responder Application (EMS-700), is used for EMR verification/certification and tracking. Unit/Program Training Officers will establish an EMR database to track all EMRs with a unique EMR number. EMR numbers should be formatted by using the Unit alpha designator and sequential numbers (for example, BTU-00001). The Unit/Program Training Officers coordinate with the CAL FIRE EMS Program Training Coordinator to ensure compliance with EMR tracking requirements.



Emergency Medical Responder Level of Training Renewal

The CAL FIRE EMR level of training renewal date is the industry standard, two years. The training certificate shall expire on the last day of the month, two years after the training certificate was issued. An EMR card holder may renew their card up to six months before the expiration date and still maintain the current renewal month. Those who recertify prior to six months will receive a new renewal/expiration date 24 months from the date of the training certificate received.

Emergency Medical Responder Requirements

All EMR training courses consist of the following components:

- An instructor presentation
- Skills practice and/or scenario session
- Final written exam
- Skills competency verification

Initial Certificate of Completion

Students must successfully pass the 40-60 hour CAL FIRE EMR initial training course.

Renewal of Certificate of Completion

EMR retraining is required every two years. Students must successfully pass a 24-hour EMR retraining course or complete 24 hours in emergency medical services (EMS) continuing education (CE). To issue and use CE for EMRs, Unit/Program Training Officers must track EMR certificates of completion and assign each individual EMR a unique EMR training certificate number.

Emergency Medical Technician to Emergency Medical Responder Reciprocity

An individual with a valid Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certificate can apply for an EMR training certificate. The EMR training certificate is issued with the same expiration date as the EMT card. EMTs must follow the EMR application process. An individual with an expired EMT certification may apply for an EMR training certificate by completing the Emergency Medical Responder Application.



Lapse in Emergency Medical Responder Training

Once an EMR training card expires, the employee cannot function as an EMR. Should an EMR training level lapse, the following additional CE requirements apply to regain EMR status:

- Lapses more than six months, but less than 12 months, an additional 12 CE hours (for a total of 36 CE hours) from an approved EMS CE provider are required for recertification
- Lapses more than 12 months require a full EMR course

Lapses less than six months require the existing 24-hour refresher course or 24 CE hours. For additional information on CE requirements, refer to the 7200 CAL FIRE Emergency Medical Services Handbook, Appendix 5.

CAL FIRE public safety personnel are required to maintain a minimum EMS level of training in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code. Refer to the 4000 CAL FIRE Training Handbook for the minimum EMS training for each CAL FIRE classification. Due to contractual obligations, some Units/Programs may require a higher level of EMS certification.

For additional EMR information, please contact the CAL FIRE EMS Program.