

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)** **7744**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

**GENERAL** **7744.1**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is the statistical leader among the incident responses by virtually every fire organization in the country. A significant percentage of responses by forces under CAL FIRE direction involves emergency medical care in the prehospital setting.

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT** **7744.2**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

It is the intent of the legislature to promote the development, accessibility and provision of EMS to the people of the State of California. It is the policy of the State of California that people shall be encouraged and trained to assist others at the scene of a medical emergency.

**STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY** **7744.3**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

The State Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) is established by Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code Sec. 1797.100.

**EMSA ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY** **7744.3.1**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

The primary role of EMSA is to provide leadership in developing EMS systems throughout the state. The statutory responsibilities include assessing local service areas, reviewing and approving local plans, establishing minimum standards for training and certification, and providing technical assistance (Health and Safety Code Sec. 1797.102 et. seq.).

**EMSA MAY DEVELOP CAL FIRE STANDARDS** **7744.3.2**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

EMSA may develop (or prescribe standards for) and approve an emergency medical **provider** training and testing program for the CHP, CAL FIRE and other public safety agency personnel at the request of, and as deemed appropriate by, the director of the particular agency.

EMSA may prescribe that each person, upon successful completion of the training course and upon passing a written and a practical examination, be certified as an emergency medical **provider** of an appropriate classification. A suitable identification card may be issued to each certified person to designate that person's emergency medical skill level.

EMSA may prescribe standards for refresher training to be given to persons trained and certified under this section (Health and Safety Code Sec. 1797.109).

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON EMS** **7744.3.3**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

This committee, chaired by the director of EMSA, advises the authority on the coordination and integration of all state activities concerning EMS. The committee includes a representative from various state agencies and departments including the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Health and Safety Code Sections 1797.130 and 1797.132).

**MEDICAL DISASTERS** **7744.3.4**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

EMSA shall coordinate medical and hospital disaster preparedness with other local, state and federal agencies and departments having a responsibility relating to disaster response (Health and Safety Code Sec. 1797.151).

**LOCAL EMS AGENCY** **7744.4**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

The local EMS agency serves as the lead agency for the emergency medical services system at the local level and is responsible for coordinating all system participants in its service area. In California, counties have been given the primary responsibility for assuring that EMS systems are developed and implemented and for designating a local EMS agency.

**ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY** **7744.4.1**  
(No. 9 November 1993)

The local EMS agency is responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the local EMS system. This includes establishing policies addressing financial aspects of system operation and making provisions for collection, analysis and dissemination of EMS related data.

The local EMS agency is also responsible for:

- establishing policies and procedures for EMS system operations (using State minimum standards).
- developing and submitting a plan to the State EMS authority for its emergency medical services system.
- designating and/or contracting with EMS base hospitals and specialty care centers.
- developing guidelines, standards and protocols for triage, prehospital treatment and transfer of emergency patients, and do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders.
- authorizing and implementing a prehospital advance life support program if desired.
- approving EMS personnel training programs.

## **MULTI-COUNTY LOCAL EMS AGENCIES**

**7744.4.2**

(No. 9 November 1993)

Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code permits the development of multi-county EMS regions and may be done through a joint powers agreement or through a contract which specifies the responsibilities to be conducted regionally and those to be retained at the county level.

## **COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC)**

**7744.4.3**

(No. 9 November 1993)

The county board of supervisors prescribes and appoints membership to the EMCC. If two or more adjacent counties establish a committee, the county boards of supervisors shall jointly prescribe and appoint membership.

Emergency Medical Care Committees are responsible for reviewing emergency medical care in each county. The committee reports its observations and recommendations to the EMS authority, the county board(s) of supervisors which it serves and the local EMS agency.

## **CAL FIRE AUTHORITY**

**7744.5**

(No. 9 November 1993)

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

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

The legislature has not only authorized CAL FIRE 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).

## **CAL FIRE AVAILABILITY FOR EMS RESPONSES**

**7744.5.1**

(No. 9 November 1993)

CAL FIRE may provide, when **available** and to the extent it does not require additional funds, rescue, first aid and other emergency services to the public in state responsibility areas (PRC 4114 [b]).

Due to station location, seasonal staffing, and statewide movement of resources, CAL FIRE response resources (chief officers, engine companies and fire crews) may not be able to provide year-round emergency medical services.

## **CONDITIONS OF USE**

**7744.5.2**

(No. 9 November 1993)

There are a number of conditions under which CAL FIRE 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, CAL FIRE may be required to provide Emergency Medical Technicians (CEP, Annex D Sec. 4.4.1).

- Cooperative Agreements

CAL FIRE may provide emergency medical services under the terms of cooperative fire protection agreements. Normally, CAL FIRE 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 CAL FIRE resources will be dispatched directly to the scene of an emergency medical incident within areas where CAL FIRE has state or local fire protection responsibility.

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

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

- Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid

Subject to availability, CAL FIRE may provide rescue and emergency medical services on a mutual aid or automatic aid basis to other fire protection jurisdictions when requested.

CAL FIRE may assist other governmental entities such as County Sheriff, CHP and military departments upon request.

## **TRANSPORTATION OF INJURED**

**7744.5.3**

(No. 9 November 1993)

CAL FIRE employees, when acting in the scope of their employment, may transport or arrange for the transportation of any person injured by a fire, by a fire protection operation, or in an accident upon a highway to a physician and surgeon or hospital provided the injured person does not object to such transportation (Gov. Code Sec. 850.8 and CVC Sec. 20016).

## **LIABILITY LIMITATIONS**

**7744.5.4**

(No. 9 November 1993)

The legislature finds and declares that a threat to public health and safety exists whenever there is a need for emergency services and that public entities and emergency rescue personnel should be encouraged to provide emergency services. To that end, a qualified immunity from liability shall be provided to public entities and emergency rescue personnel when providing emergency services. It shall be presumed that the action taken was performed in good faith and without gross negligence (Health and Safety Code Sec. 1799.107).

## **VICARIOUS LIABILITY**

**7744.5.5**

(No. 9 November 1993)

If a CAL FIRE employee listed in section 4037.3 responds to an incident during a period that the employee does not hold current certification pursuant to CCR Title 22, the employee's supervisor may be liable for, and the Department would be liable for, any injuries or deaths which result from the employee's insufficient training and which would not have otherwise resulted had the employee been (re)trained and certified as required by those regulations.

CAL FIRE employees, listed in section 4037.3, shall not be dispatched or respond to emergency incidents during a period in which they do not satisfy the requirements of Chapter 1.5, Div. 9, CCR Title 22.

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**7744.6**

(No. 9 November 1993)

### **CHILD ABUSE REPORTING**

**7744.6.1**

(No. 9 November 1993)

All Department (CAL FIRE) employees who are required to receive prehospital medical training (CPR, PSFA or First Responder) shall sign a form provided by the Department which states that the employees have knowledge of [Penal Code](#) Section 11166 and that they will comply with its provisions (Penal Code 11165.5).

### **ELDERLY ABUSE REPORTING**

**7744.6.2**

(No. 9 November 1993)

All Department (CAL FIRE) employees who are required to receive prehospital medical training (CPR, PSFA, or First Responder) shall sign a form provided by the Department which states that the employees have knowledge of [Welfare and Institutions Code](#) Section 15630 and that they will comply with its provisions (Welfare & Institutions Code Sec. 15632).

## **RABIES REPORTING**

(No. 9 November 1993)

**7744.6.3**

The local health officer shall be notified of any person bitten by a rabid or suspected rabid animal.

In those areas declared by the director of the State Department of Health Services to be "rabies areas," the local health officer shall be notified when any person is bitten by an animal of a species subject to rabies, whether or not the animal is suspected of having rabies (Health and Safety Code Sec. 2606).

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