

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)**

**8579**

(No. 49 February 2005)

Statistics indicate that virtually every fire organization in the country responds to more Emergency Medical Services calls than any other type of incident response. A significant percentage of total responses by forces under CDF direction involve some degree of emergency medical care of injured or ill persons.

## **LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

**8579.1**

(No. 49 February 2005)

It is the intent of the Legislature to promote the development, accessibility, and provision of emergency medical services to the people of California. It is also the policy of the state that people shall be encouraged and trained to assist others at the scene of a medical emergency (H&SC S 1797.5).

## **STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

**8579.2**

(No. 49 February 2005)

The State Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) is established by Division 2.5, Section 1797.100 H&SC. The primary role of EMSA is to provide leadership in the development of EMS systems throughout the state. The statutory responsibilities include the following:

- Develop minimum training and scope of practice standards for EMT-I, EMT-II, and EMT-P (paramedic), and other EMS personnel.
- Establish standards for continuing education and designate the examinations for certification of all pre-hospital care personnel.
- Promulgate guide lines for the development of coordinated emergency medical systems throughout the state, including guidelines for hospital facilities assessment and designation according to critical care capabilities.
- Coordinate, through local EMS agencies, of medical and hospital disaster preparedness with other local, state, and federal agencies and departments, as well as the development of the emergency medical services component for the OES state plan.
- Establish minimum standards for the policies and procedures necessary for medical control of the emergency medical services system.

- Review and approve local EMS plans. These plans must, in accordance with the H&SC S1797.250, comply with the minimum standards set by the state EMS Authority, meet the needs of local residents, and be consistent with coordinating activities in the area.
- Assess each EMS area, using regional and local information, in order to coordinate EMS activity and determine the need for additional emergency medical services and the effectiveness of services provided.
- Provide technical assistance to agencies, counties, and cities developing an EMS system.
- Report annually to the legislature on the effectiveness of the statewide system.
- Assist local EMS agencies in systems development and special projects with statewide implications.

## **INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

**8579.3**

(No. 49 February 2005)

This committee advises EMSA on the coordination and integration of all state agency activities concerning emergency medical services. The committee includes a representative from the following state agencies and departments:

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
 Office of Emergency Services  
 Department of the California Highway Patrol  
 Department of Motor Vehicles  
 California Traffic Safety Program  
 Medical Board of California  
 Department of Health Services  
 Board of Registered Nursing  
 Department of Education  
 National Guard  
 Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
 State Fire Marshal  
 California Conference of Local Health Officers  
 Chancellor's Office, Community Colleges  
 Department of General Services

## **EMSA MAY DEVELOP CDF STANDARDS**

**8579.4**

(No. 49 February 2005)

EMSA may develop, or prescribe standards for and approve, an EMT training and testing program for the CHP, CDF and other public safety agency personnel, upon 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 EMT 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 (H&SC S1797.109).

## **CDF AUTHORITY**

**8579.5**

(No. 49 February 2005)

CDF is authorized in PRC 4114 to provide rescue, first aid, and other emergency services when available.

## **FIRST AID AND CPR**

**8579.6**

(No. 49 February 2005)

Regularly employed and paid officers, employees, or members of CDF, except administrative and clerical, shall be trained to administer first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation within their first year of employment.

## **TRANSPORTATION OF INJURED**

**8579.7**

(No. 49 February 2005)

Any CDF employee, when acting in the scope of employment, may transport or arrange for the transportation of any person injured by a fire, or by a fire protection operation, to a physician, surgeon, or hospital if the injured person does not object to such transportation (GC S850.8)

## **LIABILITY LIMITS**

**8579.8**

(No. 49 February 2005)

The Legislature finds there is a need for emergency services and that entities and emergency rescue personnel should be encouraged to provide emergency services. Qualified immunity from liability is provided for public entities and emergency rescue personnel providing emergency services (H&SC S1769).

To encourage local agencies and other organizations to train people in emergency medical services, government employees and other organizations shall not be liable for any individual damages alleged to result from training programs (H&SC S1799.100).

To encourage emergency medical services by firefighters and EMTs, those who render emergency medical services at the scene of an emergency shall only be liable in civil damages for acts or omissions performed in a grossly negligent manner or acts or omissions not performed in good faith. A public agency employing such a firefighter or EMT shall not be liable for civil damages if the firefighter or EMT is not liable (H&SC S1799.106).

## **RESCUE AND RESUSCITATOR CONTRACTS** **8579.9**

(No. 49 February 2005)

The Board of Supervisors of a county may contract with CDF for rescue and resuscitator services (GC S55640-55642).

## **CERTIFICATION LEVEL** **8579.10**

(No. 49 February 2005)

The Board of Forestry has established a departmental goal of training CDF field employees to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-I) level. Skill levels for both EMT I and First Responder are identical. The EMT I program spends additional training hours in academic training: anatomy, physiology, and terminology, advanced auto extrication, and clinic time. See Handbook [Section 4037.3](#) for required levels of training

## **EQUIPMENT** **8579.11**

(No. 49 February 2005)

In order to make maximum use and effectiveness of EMS trained personnel, pertinent equipment and supplies will be provided, including:

- Burn Kit
- Trauma Kit
- Resuscitator
- Replacement Supplies
- Backboards

All CDF Schedule "B" engines will be so equipped and maintained at state expense.

## CONDITIONS OF USE

(No. 49 February 2005)

8579.12

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

- Protection of CDF Personnel and Others at Emergencies

Because of the hazardous nature of CDF's activities, which are often carried on in remote locations, the availability of EMT-I level personnel to assess and stabilize victims in the pre-hospital setting is crucial. CDF will provide EMS services as necessary at the scene of emergencies.

- California Emergency Plan

Pursuant to CDF's EMS support functions assigned by the Governor in time of disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, nuclear incidents, floods, and fires, CDF may be required to provide EMT or other first aid trained personnel.

- Cooperative Agreements

CDF may provide emergency medical services under the terms of cooperative fire protection agreements. Such services will normally be at the EMT-I level. Higher levels, such as EMT-P, may be provided with approval of the Director.

- First Responder-Medical

CDF resources may be dispatched directly to the scene of a life-threatening EMS incident, with subsequent notification to the responsible agency, if it is determined by the ECC that CDF resources would be first at the scene. Within the limits of availability, CDF resources may be dispatched to life-threatening EMS incidents where no other governmental unit has such responsibility.

### Mutual Aid

Subject to availability, CDF may provide emergency medical services on a mutual aid basis to other fire protection jurisdictions when requested. CDF may assist other governmental entities, such as the sheriff, highway patrol, and military department upon request.

- Other Requests for Assistance

CDF may provide emergency medical services when requested by mutual aid, other agencies or directly by individuals in need.

## **CDF AVAILABILITY FOR EMS RESPONSES**

**8579.13**

(No. 49 February 2005)

Because of station location, seasonal staffing, and statewide movement of forces, CDF crews may be unable to provide year-round emergency medical services. Communities and cooperating agencies will be made aware that CDF state-funded resources cannot be relied upon to routinely provide EMS responses.

[\(see Table of Contents\)](#)

[\(see Forms or Forms Samples\)](#)