



Health Services Department

Public Health Division

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

POLICY MEMORANDUM #5820

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/01/92

APPROVED BY:

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SUBJECT: EMS AIRCRAFT AUTHORIZATION

AUTHORITY: CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 22, CHAPTER 6, § 100206 – 100228;

PURPOSE/POLICY:

To establish authorization, training, orientation, staffing and safety policies for EMS aircraft.

I. AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURE

- A. The air ambulance/rescue service must submit:
 1. Application for initial authorization.
 2. A copy of its air taxi/commercial operators certificate. Public Safety agencies are exempt from certification requirements, but must document consistency with FAA requirements.
 3. Copy of its certificate of insurance policy.
 4. Proof of authorization and classification of the air ambulance/rescue provider by its local EMS agency of jurisdiction.

- B. Air ambulance services will assure that patient records contain data elements consistent with Article Six (100164) of Division 9, Title 22 of the California Administrative Code and submit documentation of patient care records of all EMS calls requesting the air ambulance services when the patient originates in Solano County.
- C. The air ambulance/rescue service will be required to have a written agreement with the local EMS agency to participate in the advanced life support program and to comply with all applicable state regulations, regional and local policy procedures, including a mechanism to assure compliance. The EMS Agency shall review its agreement with the authorized air ambulance service at least every two years. Such agreement may be changed, renewed, cancelled, or otherwise modified at that time. Authorization is dependent on maintaining a written agreement. The local EMS agency may deny, suspend, or revoke an air ambulance authorization for failure to comply with applicable policies, procedures and regulations. The local EMS Agency, at its discretion, shall have access to on-site inspection and appropriate record review of any authorized EMS aircraft provider as appropriate for unusual incident inquiries.
- D. Upon successful completion of A – C, the local EMS Agency will issue a certificate of authorization to the air ambulance/rescue service.
- E. The air ambulance/rescue service shall be designated by the local EMS agency as an approved air ambulance for the purpose of scene rescue, and ALS pre-hospital care. Except for specifically addressed EMS aircraft policy and procedures, all Solano EMS policies and procedures shall apply to its operation while operating in Solano County.

II. ORIENTATION OF EMS AIRCRAFT, PILOT AND CREW

The local EMS Agency shall assure that pilots and medical crews of authorized EMS aircraft are oriented to the local EMS systems before they operate within its jurisdiction. Each pilot and medical crew, prior to being utilized on an EMS mission within the local EMS agency, shall have completed an orientation approved by the EMS Agency.

- A. Pilot requirements – Orientation includes familiarization with:
 - 1. Landing sites and all pre-determined emergency landing sites and special operational information for each site within Solano County.
 - 2. A comprehensive communications inventory with frequency numbers, agency names and identifiers, PL Codes, etc., and special communications procedures of Solano County organizations and agencies that would interact with EMS Aircraft.
- B. Medical Crew – Orientation includes familiarization with:
 - 1. Pilot orientation requirements;
 - 2. Local medical control policies and procedures including but not limited to:

- a. "On line" medical direction;
- b. Record keeping requirements;
- c. Patient transfer between ground and air medical personnel.
- d. Patient destination.

III. AIR AMBULANCE MEDICAL FLIGHT CREW TRAINING AND STAFFING

- A. Air Ambulance means any aircraft specially constructed, modified or equipped and used for the primary purposes of responding to emergency calls and transporting critically ill or injured patients.
- B. Air Ambulance Flight Crew shall be a minimum of two (2) attendants certified or licensed in advanced life support. Prior to being utilized on any EMS mission, the crew members shall have training in aeromedical transportation as specified in the California Code of Regulations, Section 100320.

IV. AIR RESCUE MEDICAL FLIGHT CREW TRAINING AND STAFFING

- A. ALS Rescue Aircraft. ALS rescue aircraft shall have at least one (1) attendant who is certified at the advanced life support level (EMT-II, EMT-P). Prior to being utilized on any EMS mission, the crew member shall have training in aeromedical transportation as specified in the California Code of Regulations, Section 100320.
- B. BLS Rescue Aircraft: Shall have at least one (1) attendant who is certified as an EMT-I. Prior to being utilized on any EMS mission the crew member shall have training in aeromedical transportation as specified in the California Code of Regulations, Section 100320.

V. SAFETY POLICIES FOR AUTHORIZED EMS AIRCRAFT

Air ambulance/rescue service providers shall agree to comply with FAR Part 91 and 135 (or their equivalent) and AAMS Guidelines to maintain their authorization status, as well as all applicable State and Federal regulations. In addition, all safety policies will be adhered to as addressed in FAA Regulations.

- A. Each EMS authorized aircraft shall have the following equipment:
 - 1. A searchlight (manipulated by the pilot and having a minimum movement of 90 degrees vertical and 180 degrees horizontal) capable of illuminating a proposed landing site. It should be capable of operation by the pilot without requiring the pilot to remove his hands from the controls (NOT REQUIRED FOR DAY-VFR). It is recommended that searchlights have a minimum of 1 million candle power output for night operations.

2. Air to ground communications with those personnel first on the scene (i.e., POLICE, AMBULANCE, FIRE, etc.).
3. Additional restraining devices used to preclude patient interference with the flight crew or aircraft flight controls;
4. An intercommunications system for flight crew member and medical flight attendant communication aboard the aircraft.