



TEMPORARY ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS) UNIT ACTIVATION

I. AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 3, 1797.178, Chapter 4, 1797.206 and 1798.

II. PURPOSE:

This policy describes the circumstances and defines the process for an Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) approved 911-ALS service provider agency to implement additional advanced life support (ALS) units on a temporary basis for a limited period of time to meet increased medical service requests or when safe operational coverage is jeopardized due to circumstances beyond the control of the provider agency. This policy does not apply to those occasions when an ALS service provider activates a reserve unit to provide coverage when the regular ALS unit has been deployed out of their area (e.g., strike team deployment).

III. APPLICATION:

An approved 911-ALS service provider may request to implement additional ALS units on a temporary basis for a limited period of time for any of the following reasons:

A. To meet a specific need; examples:

1. Seasonal influx of population.
 2. Special events.
- B. During periods of increased hospital diversion with resultant extended transport times and/or delays encountered in emergency departments.
- C. Other factors that remove existing ALS units from service that would cause the provider agency to be out of compliance with previously defined criteria for ALS coverage (reference: P/P #700.00, III. B, 8 a).

IV. CRITERIA:

A. If an ALS service provider has advance knowledge of a specific need (as per III. A.1 and III.A.2 above) that will require additional ALS units, the service provider shall notify OCEMS, in writing at least 3 days in advance of activation (when possible), of the following:

1. The reason(s) for the additional ALS unit.
2. The date(s) and time(s) the ALS unit will be in service.
3. The ALS unit designator.
 - a) OCEMS will review the request and advise the 911-ALS service provider of the decision. OCEMS will also advise all other appropriate agencies (Orange County Communications [OCC], base hospitals) of the temporary ALS unit activation.
 - b) The 911-ALS service provider shall advise their dispatch/ communications center.

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- B. Orange County EMS will notify Base Hospital Coordinators and Control One Supervisors
- C. The 911-ALS service provider must have a policy identifying the steps to be followed when an unforeseen need exists (as per III.B and III.C above).
- D. The temporary 911-ALS unit must be staffed by a minimum of two (2) EMT-Ps, each currently licensed in the state of California and accredited by OCEMS.
- E. The temporary 911-ALS unit must have the full complement of supplies, equipment and medications as per OCEMS P/P #325.00, Advanced Life Support Unit Inventory.
- F. The temporary 911-ALS unit must have the capability of establishing contact with OCC and with base hospitals for on-line medical control; 800 MHz radios or cellular telephones may be utilized.
 - 1. When a temporary 911-ALS unit requests a biomedical radio frequency from OCC, they should identify themselves as a temporary medic unit.

V. SERVICE OPERATIONS:

The 911-ALS service provider shall monitor unplanned temporary activations.

Approved:

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