

**FIRE SERVICE REGISTERED NURSE AUTHORIZATION****I. AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.56; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, §100170.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy defines the process for the OCEMS medical director to authorize a registered nurse (RN) to function as a Fire Service Authorized Registered Nurse (ARN) in Orange County. The Fire Service ARN is authorized to provide care to fire service personnel under fire service ARN standing orders.

III. DEFINITIONS:

“Authorized registered nurse”, “mobile intensive care nurse,” or “MICN” means a registered nurse who is functioning pursuant to Section 2725 of the Business and Professions Code and who has been authorized by the medical director of the local EMS agency.

“Fire Service Practice Guidelines” are those medical directives identified in the OCEMS Fire Service ARN Standing Orders” written by the OCEMS Medical Director.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- A. No person or organization other than a recognized Orange County fire service shall utilize a Fire Service ARN to provide care and treatment to their fire service employees.
- B. No person shall represent him/herself as a Fire Service ARN unless that person is currently authorized as such by the OCEMS Medical Director.
- C. Nothing in this policy shall be deemed to abridge or restrict the duties or functions of an RN, MICN or ARN as otherwise provided by law.
- D. Fire Service ARNs may participate in the fire service rehabilitation process as outlined by Fire Service ARN standing orders as written by the OCEMS Medical Director.
- E. Authorization as Fire Service ARN shall be valid from the date of successful completion of all authorization requirements throughout the employment with an approved 911 ALS agency.
- F. A Fire Service ARN authorization may be suspended, revoked, denied, or placed on probation by the OCEMS Medical Director in accordance with the standardized procedures set forth in OCEMS Policy 450.00.

V. APPLICATION CRITERIA:

To be eligible for authorization, an individual shall meet all of the following requirements:

- A. Currently licensed as an RN in California.
- B. Current employment by an Orange County EMS 911 ALS provider agency; or current employment with OCEMS
- C. Successfully complete the authorization process (See Section VI).
- D. Possess current nursing malpractice insurance

**FIRE SERVICE REGISTERED NURSE AUTHORIZATION****VI. AUTHORIZATION PROCESS:**

All of the following must be submitted to OCEMS when applying for initial authorization:

- A. Written recommendation by the sponsoring 911 ALS provider agency.
- B. Complete the appropriate OCEMS application for Fire Service ARN.
- C. Completed application and documentation of the following:
 1. Successful completion of an OCEMS approved Fire Service ARN authorization course
 2. Successful completion of Fire Service ARN authorization examination

VII. PROVIDER AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. The sponsoring 911 ALS provider agency shall:
 1. Ensure accurate record keeping for personnel contacts not meeting the definition of a patient (OCEMS Policy 90.0).
 2. Ensure the Fire Service ARN shall document in the Patient Care Record according to OCEMS Policy 300.30 any assessments or treatments provided to fire service personnel deemed "patients".
 3. Notify OCEMS and updating OC-MEDS of changes in name, status (active / inactive / LOA) or sponsorship of Fire Service ARNs within 30 days of change.

VIII. OCEMS RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. OCEMS will provide authorization examinations to eligible individuals at regularly scheduled intervals.
- B. Initial authorization and reauthorization requests will be reviewed by OCEMS within 10 business days of receipt of all required documentation. OCEMS will generate a letter indicating authorization status and forward to the sponsoring 911 ALS agency.
- C. OCEMS will maintain an electronic database of Fire Service ARNs authorized by the OCEMS Medical Director.
- D. OCEMS Medical Director will review Fire Service ARN practice guidelines on a regular basis, not to exceed annually

Approved:

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