


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

**Automatic Aid/Mutual Aid/Out-Of-Region Response**

	Effective: 06/01/2016	Next Review: 01/2019	<b>461</b>
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
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**PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines pertaining to when and under what conditions an EMR, EMT, AEMT or paramedic certified/licensed/accredited in California may legally function in their respective classification during automatic aid, mutual aid and disaster responses. This includes routine automatic aid/mutual aid responses as well as Fireline Paramedic and Ambulance Strike Team activations.

**AUTHORITY:**

- A. California Health and Safety Code, § 1797.170(b), 1797.204 & 1797.220.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9.
- C. California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement, November 1950.
- D. California EMS Authority ‘Ambulance Strike Team/Medical Task Forces (AST) Guidelines’ #215, July 2003.
- E. California EMS Authority Mutual Aid White Paper ‘Compendium of Statutes and Regulations Related to EMT and Paramedic Scope of Practice During Mutual Aid in California’, December 2011.
- F. California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System, Mutual Aid Plan, February 2012.
- G. Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).
- H. Supplemental Interstate Compact For Emergency Mutual Assistance, July 2007.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. **Ambulance Strike Team** – A group of five (5) ambulances of the same type with common communications and a leader. Strike teams may be all ALS or all BLS.

- B. **Automatic Aid** – Agreements between two or more jurisdictions where the nearest available resource is dispatched to an emergency irrespective of jurisdictional boundaries, or where two or more agencies are automatically dispatched simultaneously to predetermined types of emergencies. This type of agreement is typically utilized on a routine basis.
- C. **Disaster Assistance** – Requests for assistance in the event that a disaster overwhelms local resources. These requests may be under existing mutual aid agreements or the result of unforeseen needs arising from a large-scale disaster.
- D. **Fireline Paramedic** – A paramedic who meets all Firescope requirements, and is authorized by their department to provide ALS treatment on the fireline.
- E. **Medical Task Force** – Any combination of resources assembled to support a specific medical mission or operational need. All resource elements within a Task Force must have common communications and a designated leader.
- F. **Mutual Aid** – Agreements between two or more jurisdictions to provide assistance across jurisdictional boundaries, when requested, as a result of the circumstances of an emergency exceeding local resources.

#### **PRINCIPLES:**

- A. When requested by a recognized automatic aid/mutual aid/disaster assistance requester, EMS personnel may utilize the scope of practice for which they are trained and certified/licensed/accredited according to the California Code of Regulations and the policies and procedures established by the S-SV EMS Agency.
- B. These guidelines are not intended to replace existing EMS or circumvent the established response of EMS in the local county or EMS region.

#### **POLICY:**

##### A. EMR

A certified EMR may utilize their scope of practice in a volunteer or paid capacity. There is no requirement for an EMR to be affiliated with a provider.

##### B. EMT

1. A California certified EMT is recognized as an EMT statewide regardless of where in California they are certified.
2. EMTs may utilize their scope of practice in a volunteer or paid capacity. There is no requirement for an EMT to be affiliated with a provider.

3. During a mutual aid response into another jurisdiction, an EMT may utilize the scope of practice for which they are trained, certified and accredited according to the policies and procedures established by their certifying or accrediting LEMSA.

#### C. AEMT

California AEMTs may practice anywhere in California provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. They are in possession of a valid California AEMT Certificate.
2. They are accredited by a LEMSA.
3. They are affiliated with a LALS or ALS provider that is approved by the LEMSA with whom they are accredited.
4. They utilize the scope of practice as defined by the LEMSA with whom they are accredited.

#### D. Paramedic

California paramedics may practice anywhere in California provided all of the following conditions are met:

1. They are in possession of a valid California Paramedic License.
2. They are accredited by a LEMSA.
3. They are affiliated with an ALS provider that is approved by the LEMSA with whom they are accredited.
4. They utilize the scope of practice for which they are trained and accredited according to the policies and procedures established by their accrediting LEMSA.

#### E. Out-of-State Response

During automatic aid/mutual aid/disaster responses outside of California, EMS personnel are normally approved to utilize the scope of practice for which they are trained and certified/licensed/accredited according to their respective classification. EMS personnel must check in with the Medical Unit Leader or other appropriate representative of the incident for any special restrictions or credentialing requirements.

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**PROCEDURE:****A. Automatic Aid, Mutual Aid and Out-Of-Region Responses:**

1. EMS personnel shall follow all S-SV EMS policies/protocols, and shall not administer any medication or perform any procedures listed as 'Base/Modified Base Hospital Physician Order Only' without appropriate approval.
2. Controlled substances shall be obtained, secured and inventoried as indicated in S-SV EMS 'Management of Controlled Substances' policy (710).
3. Documentation of patient care will be completed as indicated in S-SV EMS 'Prehospital Documentation' policy (605).

**B. Fireline Paramedic Program Additional Requirements:**

1. Fireline Paramedic programs shall be reviewed and approved by S-SV EMS.
2. Designation by the paramedic's ALS provider agency as a Fireline Paramedic ensures that the paramedic has completed standard Firescope education.
3. The Fireline Paramedic shall present their credentials to the Medical Unit Leader upon arrival at the incident.
4. S-SV EMS approved Fireline Paramedic personnel shall carry the items listed in S-SV EMS 'Fireline Paramedic Inventory' policy (702) when responding to wildland fires to provide ALS care in such a capacity.

**C. Ambulance Strike Team Additional Requirements**

Ambulance providers shall have a fully executed Ambulance Strike Team Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with the California EMS Authority in order to participate in an ambulance strike team/medical task force request.

**CROSS REFERENCES:**

- A. EMT Scope of Practice (801).
- B. Advanced EMT Scope of Practice (802).
- C. Paramedic Scope of Practice (803).
- D. Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Scope of Practice (804).