

APPROVED: Signature On File In EMS Office
Executive Director

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Medical Director

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FIRST RESPONDER CERTIFICATION

I. AUTHORITY

Section 2.03 of the EMS System Guidelines California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.94, 1797.182 and 1797.210; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 1.5, Chapter 2.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Certification" means the issuance of a card or certificate which verifies that an individual has successfully met the requirements contained in this policy.
- B. "Agency" means the Mountain-Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency.
- C. "First Responder" means an individual who has successfully completed a 40 Hour First Responder course which meets or exceeds the requirements of Title 22, Division 9, and Chapter 1.5 of the California Code of Regulations and has met all certification requirements.
- D. "Candidate" means an individual who is applying for certification as a First Responder.
- E. "Initial Certification" means certification of a candidate who has never held valid First Responder certification with this Agency.
- F. "Re-Certification" means applying for a re-issuance of Certification issued by the Agency.
- G. "Lapsed Certification" means an individual whose certification has expired.
- H. "Approved Training Program" means an Agency approved First Responder Training Program which is taught to the standards of the U.S. Department of Transportation's First Responder standard curriculum which includes first aid practices and CPR.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism whereby individuals may acquire certification as a First Responder.

IV. POLICY

The Agency shall issue First Responder certification to those candidates that meet the requirements of this policy.

V. PROCEDURE

A. All candidates for certification or re-certification shall:

1. Complete an application that includes:

- a. A copy of a current driver's license or a government issued identification card.
- b. A signed affidavit that the candidate is at least 18 years of age.
- c. A signed affidavit that the candidate is not precluded from certification for reasons defined in Health and Safety Code, Section 1798.200.
- d. A copy of a current CPR certification which is taught to the curriculum standards of the American Heart Association, American Red Cross or the National Safety Council at the Health Care Provider or equivalent level.
- e. Payment of appropriate application fee.

2. For Initial Certification:

- a. Application must be submitted to the Agency within six (6) months of the date of course completion, unless candidate was certified as a First Responder within the past two (2) years in the state of California or a state that requires successful course completion from an approved program which is taught to the standards of the U.S. Department of Transportation's First Responder curriculum.
- b. A course completion certificate from an Agency approved First Responder Training Program which is taught to the standards of the U.S. Department of Transportation's First Responder curriculum which includes first aid practices and CPR.
- c. Candidates must successfully pass an Agency approved certification exam with a minimum passing score of 75%.
 - 1) Candidates who do not receive a passing score are eligible to retest two (2) times. If after the third attempt, the candidate does not receive a passing score, they must successfully complete a First Responder initial course in order to reapply for certification.
- d. A completed Agency approved Verification of Skills Form documenting competency to National Registry standards of the following skills:
 - (1) Patient examination, trauma patient
 - (2) Patient examination, medical patient

- (3) Airway emergencies (test on one only)
 - (a) Mouth-To-Mask with Supplemental Oxygen
 - (b) Upper Airway Adjuncts and Suction
- (4) Breathing emergencies (test on one only)
 - (a) Supplemental Oxygen Administration
 - (b) Bag-Valve-Mask Apneic Patient
- (5) Automated External Defibrillation
- (6) Circulation Emergency - Bleeding Control - Shock Management
- (7) Neurological emergencies (test on one only)
 - (a) Spinal Immobilization - Seated patient
 - (b) Spinal Immobilization - Supine patient
- (8) Soft tissue injuries - Open Fracture of an Extremity
- (9) Musculoskeletal injuries (test on one only)
 - (a) Long Bone Injury
 - (b) Joint Injury
 - (c) Traction Splinting
- (10) Obstetrical Emergency

3. For Recertification:

- a. Documentation of successful completion of 16 hours of continuing education in accordance with Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 1.5, Section 100025 of the California Code of Regulations.
 - b. Successful completion of V.A.2.d of this policy.
- B. Upon successful completion of all certification requirements, the candidate will be issued certification for a maximum period of two years. The Certification expiration date will be the final day of the final month of the two (2) year period.
- 1. If the First Responder applies for recertification within six (6) months prior to the expiration date of their current certificate, their new effective date of Certification shall be the day after their current Certification expires.
 - 2. If the First Responder applies for recertification more than six (6) months before their current certificate expires, they will be issued a new beginning Certification date effective the day that they meet the recertification requirements.

3. If the First Responder with lapsed Certification applies for recertification, they will be issued a new beginning Certification date effective the day that they meet the recertification requirements.
- C. An individual with lapsed Certification may be recertified as a First Responder as follows:
1. For a lapse of less than six months, the individual shall comply with all items listed in Section V.A.1 and V.A.3 of this policy.
 2. For a lapse of six months or more, but less than twelve months, the individual shall comply with the requirements of Section V.A.1 and V.A.3. of this policy plus an additional 6 hours of continuing education.
 3. For a lapse of twelve months or more, but less than twenty-four months, the individual shall comply with Section V.A.1 and V.A.3 of this policy, complete an additional 16 hours of continuing education and successfully complete the Certification examination process outlined in V.A.2.c of this policy.
 4. Individuals with lapsed Certification that successfully complete the process outlined in Section V.C of this policy will be issued Certification effective the day that they meet the recertification requirements. The Certification expiration date will be the final day of the final month of the two (2) year period.
- B. First Responder certification may be denied, or a First Responders certification may be suspended or revoked if they meet any of the following:
1. Has committed any sexually related offense specified under Section 290 of the Penal Code
 2. Been convicted of murder, attempted murder, or murder for hire
 3. Been convicted of two or more felonies
 4. Is on parole or probation for any felony
 5. Been convicted and released from incarceration during the preceding fifteen years of the crime of manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter
 6. Been convicted and released from incarceration during the preceding ten years for any offense punishable as a felony
 7. Been convicted of two misdemeanors within the preceding five years for any offense relating to the use, sale, possession, or transportation of narcotics or addictive or dangerous drugs
 8. Been convicted of two misdemeanors within the preceding five years for any offense relating to force, violence, threat, or intimidation
 9. Been convicted within the preceding five years of any theft related misdemeanor
 10. Has committed any act within the preceding seven years involving fraud or intentional dishonesty for personal gain

- C. Upon successful completion of all Certification requirements, the candidate shall be issued Certification for a maximum period of two (2) years. The effective date of certification shall be the date the candidate satisfies all certification requirements. The certification expiration date will be the final day of the final month of the two (2) year period.