

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Executive Director

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Medical Director

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EMS AIRCRAFT PROVIDER AUTHORIZATION POLICY

I. **AUTHORITY**

Division 2.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220, California Code of Regulations, Title 22., Prehospital Emergency Medical Services, Chapter 8., Prehospital EMS Aircraft Regulations, Title 21, Public Works Chapter 2.5 Division of Aeronautics (Department of Transportation), Public Utilities Code Section 21662.1., and Federal Aviation Regulations

II. **DEFINITIONS**

Refer to the "EMS Aircraft Policy Definitions" policy #441.00.

III. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to specify the authorization requirements of EMS aircraft providers that operate within the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency member counties.

IV. **POLICY**

- A. The Agency will be responsible for the classification and authorization of EMS aircraft based within its jurisdiction except for aircraft operated by the California Highway Patrol, the California Department of Forestry or the California National Guard which shall be classified by the EMS Authority.
- B. EMS aircraft providers based outside of the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency member counties may be authorized to provide service within this EMS region if they provide proof of authorization and classification by their local EMS agency of jurisdiction; or in the case of the California Department of Forestry, California Highway Patrol, or California National Guard; by the State EMS Authority.
- C. Levels of classification of emergency medical services aircraft shall include:
 - 1. Air Ambulance - 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 whose medical flight crew has a minimum of two (2) attendants certified in advanced life support.
 - 2. Advanced Life Support Rescue Aircraft - a rescue aircraft whose medical flight crew has at a minimum, one attendant certified in advanced life support.
 - 3. Basic Life Support Rescue Aircraft - a rescue aircraft whose medical flight crew has at a minimum, one attendant certified as an EMT-I.

4. Auxiliary Rescue Aircraft - a rescue aircraft which does not have a medical flight crew.

D. EMS Aircraft Provider Authorization

1. The Agency will be the authorizing agency which approves utilization of specific EMS Aircraft within its jurisdiction. Authorization will be, at a minimum, consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 8, pre-hospital EMS Aircraft Regulations.
2. EMS Aircraft Providers must be authorized by the Agency before they may be included in the pre-hospital EMS system as an air medical transport service. When an EMS Aircraft Provider successfully completes the authorization requirements as set forth herein, a certificate of authorization will be issued. Upon issuance of said certificate, the EMS Aircraft Provider will be included on the authorized EMS Aircraft call list for the appropriate County Air Resource Center (CARC). Prior to final authorization to respond to emergency field calls on first call basis in a specific county, EMS Aircraft service providers must document that information concerning landing site safety operations has been provided to each ground ambulance provider and fire department that regularly responds to EMS emergencies in that county.
3. In order to maintain authorization, EMS Aircraft Providers shall have a written agreement with the Agency to participate in the prehospital emergency patient care and transport program and comply with all applicable state regulations, regional and local policies and procedures, including a mechanism to assure compliance with same. The Agency shall review its agreement with the authorized EMS Aircraft Provider every five years. Authorization is dependent on maintaining a written agreement. The Agency may deny, suspend or revoke an EMS Aircraft Provider authorization for failure to comply with applicable policies, procedures and regulations. The Agency, at its discretion, shall have access to review any provider policies. Access shall also be allowed for on-site inspection and appropriate record review of any authorized EMS Aircraft Provider as appropriate for unusual occurrence reports. The review of records may include dispatch data, medical records and on-site review of financial and administrative data. All Applicants shall agree to:
 - a. provide requested quality assurance information to the Agency for review within five (5) working days;
 - b. utilize and maintain communications as specified by the Agency;
 - c. maintain a minimal or equivalent drug and solution inventory, basic and advanced life support medical equipment, and supplies as approved by the Agency;
 - d. adhere to federal, state, local and EMS Agency regulations, and policies and procedures;
 - e. provide to the Agency, on request, copies of all current policies and procedures as they relate to EMS Aircraft operations. The confidentiality of all documents shall be protected to the maximum extent allowed by law.
 - f. agree to update EMS system as to the location and availability of EMS Aircraft on a real time basis.

- E. In order to be authorized to provide service within the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency service system, EMS Aircraft Providers (with the exception of auxiliary rescue aircraft) must be CAMTS accredited. Public Safety agencies are required to document equivalency to AAMS Safety Guidelines. The EMS Aircraft Provider also agrees to comply with FAR Part 91 and 135 (or their equivalent) to maintain their authorization status.
- F. EMS Aircraft Provider shall submit electronic patient care record ("P.C.R.") information in compliance with Agency Policy 620.30 – Provider Agency Data Requirements
- G. Pilots and medical flight crews of authorized EMS Aircraft must be oriented to the EMS Agency system before they operate within its jurisdiction utilizing the current standards by CAMTS.
 - 1. Medical flight crew orientation shall include familiarization with:
 - a. Local medical control policies and procedures including but not limited to:
 - (1) "On Line" medical direction
 - (2) Record keeping requirements
 - (3) Patient transfer between ground and air medical personnel
 - (4) Patient destination
 - (5) Multi-Casualty Incident Plan
 - (6) Trauma Policies
- H. Air Ambulance Flight Crew Staffing Requirements
 - 1. Field Emergencies
 - 2.
 - a. Air ambulance medical flight crew(s) shall have a minimum of (2) two attendants. The medical flight crew must consist of one of the following categories:
 - (1). Registered Nurse & EMT-P
 - (2). Physician & EMT-P
 - (3). Physician & Registered Nurse
 - (4). Registered Nurse & Registered Nurse

One attendant must be authorized to perform orotracheal and nasotracheal intubation.

The only exception to the requirement regarding the minimum attendant certification is when the air ambulance is performing a highly specialized interfacility transfer when the patient requires the specialized technical staff and support (e.g. neonatal, cardiovascular, high risk perinatal, etc.). These particular flight crews are not required to maintain EMS certifications.

- I. Training and Scope of Practice
 - 1. The medical flight crew (other than physicians licensed in the State of California) shall adhere to the Agency's policies for medical control, including treatment protocols, when functioning as part of the EMS system on a field emergency.
 - 2. Nursing flight crew members may perform specialized advanced protocols or procedures approved by the EMS Aircraft Provider Medical Director when conducting interfacility transfers.

3. Nursing flight crew members must at a minimum be trained according to the "Air Medical Crew National Standard Curriculum" and CAMTS standards and be qualified to use the Agency approved EMT-P scope of practice.
 4. EMS Aircraft Providers must develop policies and protocols if they are going to allow their nursing and physician crew members to perform skills and administer medications which are beyond the EMS Agency approved EMT-P scope of practice when functioning as part of the EMS system on a field emergency. These policies and protocols shall only be allowed with the approval of the Agency Medical Director.
- J. Landing Zone and Heli-spot Training Criteria
1. The training curriculum for ground personnel as set forth in NEMSPA guidelines shall be provided by the EMS Aircraft Providers in all on-site training sessions.
 2. This training shall be made available to all first responder and ground ambulance provider agencies that regularly respond within the Region at least every eighteen months.
- K. Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the occasional use of EMS Aircraft Providers, which are classified and authorized within their local jurisdiction, during a disaster or extreme system saturation condition even if they are not authorized for service with the Mountain-Valley EMS region.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. The EMS Aircraft Provider must submit an application for initial authorization. Completion of the application will require documentation of self-inventory and classification in accordance with criteria required by Emergency Medical Services Authority and policies of the Agency.
- B. The EMS Aircraft Provider must submit a copy of its Air Taxi Commercial Operator's Certificate. (Public Safety agencies are exempt from certification requirements but must document consistency with FAA requirements.) The Agency may request a copy of the enforcement and accident history of the operator from an FAA Flight Standards District Office that issues the certificate.
- C. The EMS Aircraft Provider must submit a copy of its certificate of insurance. For those EMS Aircraft that are classified as an air ambulance, the policy must include a \$20 million minimum liability and a \$1 million minimum malpractice liability. The EMS Aircraft Provider is required to notify the Agency 30 days prior to reduction or change in its liability coverage. Public Safety agencies are exempt of certification requirement but must document their ability to assume liability for their actions.
- D. The Agency shall review all submitted documentation. Upon satisfaction of all requirements, the Agency shall enter into a written agreement with the EMS Aircraft Provider to allow the EMS Aircraft Provider to provide EMS Aircraft services within the Region.
- E. The Agency shall give the EMS Aircraft Provider a certificate of authorization which shall automatically renew with each five -year written agreement.