

TITLE: ALPINE COUNTY SPECIFIC
EMERGENCY BLS AMBULANCE
POLICY

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Executive Director

SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Medical Director

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SUPERSEDES:

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ALPINE COUNTY SPECIFIC EMERGENCY BLS AMBULANCE POLICY

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, sections 1797.70, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1798(a), 1798.6; and Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Division 9, Chapter 2, section 100063.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Alpine County EMS Response Area" means the areas of Hwy 88 (Carson Pass) from the California/Nevada State border to the Alpine/Amador County line; Hwy 89 from the Alpine/Mono county line to the Alpine/El Dorado county line; Hwy 4 (Ebbetts Pass) from Markleeville to the top of Ebbetts Pass, and all residential, public and private lands serviced by the above mentioned highway routes.
- B. "Agency" means the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency
- C. "Base Hospital" means a hospital designated by the Agency, that is contracted to the Agency to direct the advanced life support system and prehospital care system assigned to it by the Agency.
- D. "Emergency" means a condition or situation in which an individual has a need for immediate medical attention or where the potential for such need is perceived by emergency medical personnel or a public safety agency. (HSC 1797.70)
- E. "Hospital" means an acute care hospital licensed under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1250) of Division 2, with a permit for basic emergency service or an out-of state acute care hospital which substantially meets the requirements of Chapter 2 as determined by the local EMS agency which is utilizing the hospital in the emergency medical services system, and is licensed in the state in which it is located.
- F. "MCI" means a Multi-Casualty Incident as defined in Agency policy #810 and the June 1993 edition of the California Office of Emergency Services Region IV Multi-Casualty Incident Plan.

G. "Mutual Aid ALS Ambulance" means any ALS ambulance not based within Alpine County that responds to emergency requests within Alpine County.

II. PURPOSE

To establish criteria and procedures for utilization of ambulance services within Alpine County and for those cases in which Alpine County EMS ambulance responds to Amador County for the care and transport of Emergency patients.

III. POLICY

- A. Alpine County Emergency Medical Services shall respond an ambulance to areas within the Alpine County EMS Response Area, and to areas within Amador County when dispatched by an Authorized EMS Dispatch Center.
- B. In order to reduce ambulance response times and minimize patient transport delays, Alpine County EMS will respond a BLS ambulance to EMS calls, and the appropriate ALS ambulance will be simultaneously dispatched.
- C. Patients in Alpine County shall be transported toward the closest appropriate acute care facility and rendezvous with a Mutual Aid ALS ambulance.
- D. Patients in Amador County shall be transported by Alpine County EMS ambulance: to rendezvous with a ground ALS ambulance, an air ambulance, or to an acute care facility only:
 - 1. upon direction provided by an authorized dispatch agency for Alpine County following direction from Amador County S.O. Dispatch, directly from Amador County S.O. Dispatch, or
 - 2. upon direction provided by an American Legion Ambulance Paramedic.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Ambulance Response to Alpine County EMS Response Area
 - 1. Ambulance response to Emergencies in the Alpine County EMS Response Area shall consist of a combination of Mutual Aid ALS Ambulance response and Alpine County's BLS ambulance response.
 - 2. Alpine County EMS Ambulance shall cancel Mutual Aid ambulance services upon determining that no ambulance services are required.

- B. Alpine County Mutual Aid Ambulance Response to Amador County
 - 1. Ambulance Response to Emergencies in Amador County shall consist of a combination of Mutual Aid from Alpine County's BLS ambulance and ALS response from American Legion Ambulance.
 - 2. ALS Ambulance response shall not be canceled unless on-scene emergency personnel have determined that no ground ambulance is necessary to transport a patient to an acute care facility or rendezvous with air or ground ambulance resources.
- C. Patient Transport from Alpine County
 - 1. The Alpine County EMS ambulance staff shall assess and treat patients per Agency protocols on the scene of every Emergency and transport to rendezvous with the appropriate ALS ambulance per this policy.
- D. Patient Transport from Amador County
 - 1. The Alpine County EMS ambulance staff shall assess and treat patients per Agency protocols on the scene of every Emergency.
 - 2. Alpine County EMS ambulance staff shall contact Amador County S.O. and receive direction concerning whether to:
 - a. wait on scene for an American Legion Ambulance, or
 - b. transport the patient to rendezvous with the American Legion Ambulance, or
 - c. whether to transport the patient to rendezvous with an alternate ALS ground ambulance or Air Ambulance.
- E. Exceptions
 - 1. Any decisions concerning patient treatment, ambulance transport, and rendezvous between ALS and BLS ambulances made by a Base Hospital shall take precedence over the rules set forth in this policy.
 - 2. During an MCI, the requirements set forth in Agency MCI policies shall take precedence over the requirements in the Alpine County Specific Ambulance Policy.

F. Quality Improvement

1. The Alpine County BLS ambulance service shall conduct a quality improvement program approved by the Agency.