

TITLE: **FIRST RESPONDER –
ALS AUTHORIZATION**

APPROVED: Signature On File In EMS Office
Executive Director

Signature On File In EMS Office
Medical Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/01/2011

SUPERSEDES:

REVISED:

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FIRST RESPONDER - ALS AUTHORIZATION

I. **AUTHORITY**

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, sections 1797.52, 1797.78, 1797.84, 1797.178, 1797.206, 1797.218, 1797.220, and Title 22, California Code of Regulations, sections 100167 and 100144.

II. **DEFINITIONS**

- A. "ALS First Responder Agency" means a First Responder Agency which provides personnel and equipment to respond to medical emergencies to provide immediate Advanced Life Support medical care prior to arrival of an ambulance.
- B. "BLS First Responder Agency" means an agency that provides personnel and equipment to respond to medical emergencies, as part of the emergency medical services system, in order to provide immediate basic life support procedures prior to the arrival of an ambulance. The scope of practice for these personnel may range from basic first aid to the level of Emergency Medical Technician. The First Responder Agency is usually a public service agency (such as police or fire departments), but may also include volunteer and/or private organizations.
- C. "EMS Agency" means the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency.

III. **PURPOSE**

To establish standards and procedures for the authorization of First Responder Agencies to provide advanced life support services within the member counties of the Mountain-Valley EMS Agency.

IV. **POLICY**

- A. Any First Responder Agency wishing to provide Advanced Life Support services must adhere to an application process which includes providing the following:
1. Submit a proposal to the EMS Agency which establishes:

- a. the need and purpose of providing ALS services
 - b. specific resources for staffing and equipment
 - c. projected response times
 - d. the geographic area to be served
 - e. a detailed description of the method of dispatch of ALS resources
 - f. coordination with ALS ground ambulance companies
 - g. quality improvement programs
 - h. the scheduled level of response (24hrs or <24hrs/day)
 - i. adherence to local policies and procedures
 - j. medical control
 - k. the method of ensuring skill retention of ALS personnel
2. Describe the method that will be utilized to finance the ALS service, any proposed fees and method of fee collection.
- B. First Responder Agencies that satisfy all application and procedure requirements of this policy must:
1. Show how they propose to utilize and maintain telecommunications equipment which will allow communication via radio to an authorized base hospital, which is part of a communications plan that is acceptable to the EMS Agency and dispatched via Agency approved EMD protocols.
 2. Show how they propose to maintain an ALS drug, solution, and equipment inventory as required by the ALS Unit Equipment and Drug Inventory Policy.
Exceptions to said equipment policy are those items listed in Title 13 which refer only to ambulances, and shall not be required for ALS First Responder units that do not transport patients.
 3. Plan to respond to emergency medical requests with a minimum staffing level of one person who shall be at a minimum a Paramedic, and at least one person that is certified as an EMT in the State of California, and who has also been oriented to working as an assistant to a Paramedic. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of volunteer response to meet this requirement.

4. Have a written agreement with the EMS agency to participate in the advanced life support program.
5. Plan to designate a provider liaison and training officer as the main contact person for the EMS Agency for provider-based quality improvement and training issues.
6. Comply with all applicable state regulations and local policies and procedures.
7. Agree to provide ALS service:
 - a. on a continuous twenty-four (24) hour per day basis or;
 - b. on a less than continuous twenty-four (24) hour per day basis, for the provision of specialty care services such as:
 - 1) Law Enforcement Special Weapons and Tactical Squads Services
 - 2) Snow Ski Patrol Services
 - 3) County-approved Search and Rescue Services
 - 4) County-approved Hazardous Materials Services
 - 5) Public Boat Patrol Services
 - 6) Public Lifeguard Provider Services

C. The EMS Agency:

1. Shall review its agreement with each ALS First Responder Agency at least every five (5) years. Such agreement may be changed, canceled, renewed, or otherwise modified when necessary.
2. May deny, suspend, or revoke the approval of an ALS First Responder Agency for failure to comply with applicable policies, procedures, and regulations.

V. Procedure

- A. First Responder Agencies that wish to provide ALS First Response services shall complete an application as provided by the EMS Agency.
- B. Upon receipt of the completed application, the EMS agency, shall acknowledge the receipt date in writing and make, or cause to be made, an investigation to determine if the First Responder Agency meets all requirements as outlined in applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations. This investigation may also include a public hearing within the jurisdiction of the applying agency. The EMS agency shall also meet with representatives of the First Responder Agency and their

governing board to review the First Responder Agency's proposal. Within ninety (90) days of receipt of the completed application the EMS Agency shall make a determination to issue, or decline to issue, a First Responder Advanced Life Support Provider Agreement. If there is no response by the EMS Agency within the allotted ninety (90) day period, it shall be considered an acceptance of the proposal and the EMS Agency shall agree to begin the process of negotiating the terms of an Advanced Life Support Provider Agreement with the First Responder Agency.

- C. If the proposal is denied, the EMS Agency shall clarify in writing the reason(s) for the denial and submit specific recommendations to fulfill compliance requirements (if any) to the applying First Responder Agency. This process shall include a maximum of a forty-five (45) day response by the EMS Agency to the new application.
- D. Upon acceptance of the First Responder Agency to provide ALS services as defined in the completed application, the EMS agency and the First Responder Agency shall negotiate the terms of an Advanced Life Support Provider Agreement.
- E. The Advanced Life Support Provider Agreement shall address at a minimum the following areas:
 - 1. Geographic area to be served
 - 2. Emergency response procedures and standards
 - 3. Level of service standards, quality improvement, and disputes
 - 4. Communication and dispatch standards
 - 5. Equipment and supply standards
 - 6. Personnel standards
 - 7. Crew quarters
 - 8. Process to provide designated Quality Improvement reports to EMS agency
 - 9. Insurance and indemnification
 - 10. Compensation and fees
 - 11. Contract performance, breach, and default
 - 12. Coordination with ALS ground ambulance companies

13. Mutual aid

- F. If an agreement cannot be negotiated by the EMS Agency and the First Responder Agency, the Regional Advisory Committee shall create a review panel made up of at least three persons knowledgeable in EMS and/or the provision of ALS services. This review panel shall either serve as an arbitration board to resolve issues between the EMS Agency and the First Responder Agency, or recommend to the EMS Board of Directors that such an agreement cannot be reached. The EMS Board of Directors shall have the final decision to either award or disqualify the First Responder Agency for an ALS Provider Agreement.

- G. ALS First Responder agencies shall ensure that personnel participate in a Quality Improvement process. Each provider shall facilitate call review and provide Quality Improvement reports to the EMS agency per policies and guidelines written by the EMS agency.