

APPROVED: SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Executive Director

EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/1/2015
SUPERSEDES:

SIGNATURE ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE
Medical Director

REVIEW DATE: 9/2020
PAGE 1 OF 4

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 Highway 88 (Carson Pass) from the California/Nevada State border to the Alpine/Amador County line; Highway 89 from the Alpine/Mono County line to the Alpine/El Dorado County line; Highway 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. "Advanced Life Support" (ALS) means special services designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency medical care as outlined in 1797.52 and Article 5 of the Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5.
- D. "Amador Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit" means an ALS ambulance from the Amador County authorized emergency ground ambulance provider.
- E. "Base Hospital" means one of a limited number of hospitals which, upon designation by the local EMS agency and upon the completion of a written contractual agreement with the local EMS agency, is responsible for directing the advanced life support system or limited advanced life support system and prehospital care system assigned to it by the local EMS agency.
- F. "Basic Life Support" (BLS) means emergency first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures which, as a minimum, include recognizing respiratory and cardiac arrest and starting the proper application of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to maintain life without invasive techniques until the victim may be transported or until advanced life support is available.

- G. "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)
- H. "EMS Agency" means an organization that has the responsibility, within a given geographic area, for the coordination of emergency medical services including the designation of Base Hospitals.
- I. "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.
- J. "Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit" means any ALS ground ambulance or air ambulance not based within Alpine County that responds to emergency requests within Alpine County.

III. 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.

IV. POLICY

- A. Alpine County EMS shall respond a BLS ambulance, when available, 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, when available, to EMS calls, and the appropriate Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit will be simultaneously dispatched.
- C. Patients in the Alpine County EMS Response Area may be transported by Alpine County EMS BLS ambulance toward the closest appropriate acute care facility and rendezvous with a Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit.
- D. Patients in Amador County may be transported by the Alpine County EMS ambulance to rendezvous with a Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit or to an acute care facility only:
 - 1. Upon direction provided by an authorized dispatch agency for Alpine County following direction from Amador County Sheriffs Office Dispatch Center; or

2. Directly from Amador County Sheriffs Office Dispatch Center; or
3. Upon direction provided by the authorized Amador Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit.

V. PROCEDURE

A. Ambulance Response to the Alpine County EMS Response Area

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

B. Alpine County EMS BLS Mutual Aid Ambulance Response to Amador County

1. Ambulance response to Emergencies in Amador County shall consist of a combination of an Alpine County EMS BLS ambulance, when available, and an ALS response from the Amador Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit.
2. Cancellation of the Amador Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit shall not occur 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

The Alpine County EMS BLS ambulance staff shall assess and treat patients per Agency protocols on scene and transport to rendezvous with the appropriate Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit 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 scene .
2. Alpine County EMS BLS ambulance staff shall contact Amador County Sheriffs Office Dispatch Center and receive direction concerning whether to:
 - a. Wait on scene for the Amador Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit; or
 - b. Transport the patient to rendezvous with the Amador Mutual Aid Response Unit; or
 - c. Transport the patient to rendezvous with an alternate Mutual Aid ALS Response Unit.

E. Exceptions

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.

F. Quality Improvement

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