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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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PROCESS FOR AUTHORIZING MUTUAL AID PARAMEDIC SERVICES AS PART OF WILDFIRE OR OTHER DISASTER INCIDENT RESPONSE

Mutual aid paramedics potentially bring valuable services to Kern County, especially during large wildfire incidents. The importance of this service is recognized as an integral part of the fire suppression operations. It is important to note that paramedics are not authorized to *freelance* when responding to a wildfire. Paramedics must still remain an authorized part of an EMS system. This letter establishes the requirements to request authorization to use mutual aid paramedics to provide ALS service. Actual authorization will be issued by the Kern County EMS Medical Director in a separate letter that names each individual paramedic.

The EMS Division can authorize mutual aid paramedics to provide ALS service subject to the following information being provided about each candidate paramedic. This information shall be supplied to the Medical Unit Leader by each paramedic upon arrival and check in.

1. Name of paramedic(s) in which ALS authorization is requested.
2. Copy (fax) of current California paramedic licensure (or license number so we can verify status).
3. Copy (fax) of current paramedic accreditation from LEMSA of origin.
4. Name of authorized Paramedic Service Provider and proof of paramedic's employment (under whose authorization they are providing service from).
5. Authorized equipment and supplies in accordance with LEMSA of origin.

Upon receipt of this information, we will contact the LEMSA of origin to verify that a policy or procedure has been issued by the LEMSA Medical Director of origin that allows for "Out-Of-County" response." Storage and restocking of controlled substances shall be as directed by the LEMSA Medical Director of origin. On-line medical control may be difficult or impossible, and it is anticipated that off-line medical direction (Protocols and CQI) is specified in the LEMSA of origin's out-of-county response authorization.

The letter of authorization will provide site specific information for coordination with ambulance providers for transport of patients. And, further information regarding patient care documentation and access to on-line medical control will be provided.

To initiate a request, contact the EMS Division at 661-321-3000 during regular business hours. The EMS on-call duty officer is available through the Emergency Communications Center if after hours authorization is needed.

ROSS ELLIOTT, EMS Director

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