

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY  
PREHOSPITAL POLICY

Policy Reference No: 107  
Effective Date: 06/21/2010  
Supersedes: 03/01/1997  
Review Date: 10/01/2012

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR USE OF OUT-OF-COUNTY PARAMEDICS IN SAN  
LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DURING EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

PURPOSE

To establish policies to permit on-duty out-of-county Paramedics to practice Paramedic-level skills in San Luis Obispo County under certain circumstances.

AUTHORITY

- A. California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Section 100165 (k, l).
- B. Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.204 and 1797.206.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Controlled substance: Any substance listed as a Schedule I through IV drug in the Controlled Substance Act [i.e. Morphine Sulfate, or Diazepam (Valium)].
- B. Emergency operations: Public safety and emergency medical services being provided under circumstances of urgent and extraordinary need.
- C. Out-of-county Paramedic: An EMT-P licensed by the state of California and accredited in a county other than San Luis Obispo, or licensed by another state.
- D. Paramedic: An EMT-P licensed by the State of California and accredited to practice in San Luis Obispo County.

POLICY

- A. Out-of-county Paramedics who are on-duty with an ALS provider may perform Paramedic-level skills within San Luis Obispo County during emergency operations in compliance with the California Paramedic scope of practice and the scope of practice approved by their state or county of origin until transfer of that patient to a San Luis Obispo County accredited Paramedic.
- B. Paramedics operating within San Luis Obispo County during emergency operations as a Fireline EMT-P (FEMP) shall be subject to the provisions of California

OES/FIRESCOPE Position Manual ICS 223-11, and shall comply with ICS 223-11 as applicable to their assignment.

- C. This policy is intended to permit the provision of ALS care during in-county mutual aid emergency operations, or to facilitate continuity of care during the transport of patients through San Luis Obispo County, and is not intended to replace existing emergency medical services or circumvent the established response of emergency medical services in San Luis Obispo County.
- D. The following requirements are established within San Luis Obispo County for all out-of-county Paramedics:
  - 1. The Paramedic shall be currently licensed by the state of California and accredited by local Emergency Medical Services Agency within California, or be licensed by another state.
  - 2. The Paramedic must have access to the Advanced Life Support equipment as required by his or her state or county of origin, or ICS 223-11 if applicable.
  - 3. The Paramedic must not exceed the California Paramedic scope of practice or medical control policies from his or her state or county of origin.
  - 4. The Paramedic must be authorized by his or her accrediting state or local Emergency Medical Services Agency to perform Paramedic-level skills during out-of-county mutual aid responses or patient transfers.
  - 5. Any Paramedic operating under this policy must be on-duty with an approved ALS provider during any provision of Paramedic-level care.

## PROCEDURES

- A. All ALS equipment and supplies are to remain under the direct control of a Paramedic at all times. If a Paramedic is on an extended assignment (i.e. special event, fire line) and is relieved of duty and another Paramedic does not assume control of the ALS equipment and supplies, all such equipment and supplies must be secured in such a manner as to prevent access by non-Paramedic personnel. Controlled substances shall be kept secured, per *San Luis Obispo County Emergency Medical Services Agency Prehospital Policy 127: Management of Controlled Substances*.
- B. The out-of-county Paramedic shall remain with the patient until transfer of care can be made to a San Luis Obispo County accredited Paramedic, and upon arrival of a San Luis Obispo County accredited Paramedic, an appropriate transfer of care shall be made, and responsibility shall be transferred to the San Luis Obispo County Paramedic.
- C. The out-of-county Paramedic shall complete their local Emergency Medical Services field run report and a copy shall be made available to the San Luis Obispo County Emergency Medical Services Agency upon request.

- D. If no San Luis Obispo County Paramedic transport unit is available, and the patient must be transported by the out-of-county Paramedic, the following procedures shall be followed:
1. If operating as a transport component of a Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI), the out-of-county Paramedic shall follow the directions of the Incident Commander or other designated ICS official, as appropriate.
  2. If not operating as a transport component of an MCI, the out-of-county Paramedic shall coordinate with the Incident Commander and local Emergency Medical Services Dispatch center for transport and destination instructions.
  3. The out-of-county Paramedic shall make an appropriate transfer of care to Emergency Department staff, and shall provide written documentation of the results of the patient assessment and all treatment rendered.
  4. The out-of-county Paramedic shall complete his or her local Emergency Medical Services field run report and a copy shall be made available to the San Luis Obispo County Emergency Medical Services Agency upon request.
- F. The following notifications shall be made when out-of-county Paramedics enter San Luis Obispo County as part of a mutual aid assignment:
1. The CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire Emergency Command Center (ECC) shall notify the Emergency Medical Services Agency Medical Director or other designated EMS Agency staff member in a timely manner when out-of-county Paramedics are included in strike teams or other mutual aid response entities which are assigned and present in San Luis Obispo County.
    - a. Emergency Medical Services Agency contact information shall be provided to the SLO County ECC and shall be kept updated.
    - b. A timely notification is deemed to be within 12 hours from the ECC being made aware of the out-of-county Paramedics entering the county.
    - c. This notification is not required when such strike teams/mutual aid response entities are in transit through the county.
- G. The Emergency Medical Services Agency shall evaluate any differences in Paramedic scope of practice of such out-of-county Paramedics, and shall notify through email and/or Reddinet all hospital Emergency Departments within the county and all ALS Provider agencies. This notification shall consist of the assigned location of such out-of-county Paramedics, if any, and any known significant differences in out-of-county Paramedic scope of practice from San Luis Obispo County scope of practice, including protocols, procedures, medications, equipment or devices.
- H. In the case of Paramedics licensed in states other than California, the Emergency Medical Services Agency Medical Director may prohibit or limit the use of the scope of practice permitted to that Paramedic in his or her state of licensure, and shall make timely notification to the appropriate command entity through the appropriate chain of command that permission to perform certain or all ALS skills is withheld.

1. The command entity shall then notify such Paramedics that they may not perform any of the procedures which are not permitted.
2. The affected Paramedics may practice at the EMT Basic level if all ALS procedures have been prohibited.