~~Article~~~~ARTICLE III: Ground Ambulance~~

~~**Section 300: Ground Ambulance Design/Documentation/Equipment**~~

I. **AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code §1797.204, §1797.200; Title 13 §1103, §1103.2; 29 CFR 634; EMSA Guideline 215; Orange County Ordinance 3517 §4-9-13(a)

II. **APPLICATION:**

To provide minimum ambulance design, documentation, and equipment standards for ambulance transportation providers and to ensure a system wide standardized inventory to promote safety, readiness, and the ability to meet the requirements of a disaster response in the event of a declared emergency.

III. **AMBULANCE DESIGN**:

A. Each ambulance shall be classified in accordance with the National Incident Management System.

B. No ambulance shall be initially licensed by OCEMS after it becomes older than 10 years. No licensed ambulance shall be renewed after it becomes older than 10 years during the current licensure period. Registration month/year, as noted on CA DMV documentation, shall be the determining qualification. (IE, an OCEMS licensed ambulance registered in 2001 would need to be taken out of service no later than December 31st, 2011). No salvage titles will be authorized.

~~B.~~C. All ambulances shall be maintained in a clean condition and in good working order at all times.

~~C.~~D. No ambulance shall be operated if staffed at less than the level of care marked on the unit, (i.e., "ALS," "Mobile Intensive Care Unit," or "MICU" – must be staffed by paramedics or registered nurses).

~~D.~~E. Each ambulance shall have:

1. Patient compartment door latches operable from inside and outside the vehicle.

2. Operational heating and air conditioning units in the patient compartment.

3. Vehicle installed suction equipment (house), capable of at least a negative pressure equivalent to 300mm Hg and 30 liter per minute air flow rate for 30 minutes of operation

4. Seat belts for all passengers in the patient compartment.

5. Gaskets affixed to the perimeters of all doors and windows shall be in good working condition and form the appropriate seal.

6. All surfaces in the patient compartment (seats, mattress, etc.) shall be intact, impervious to fluid and able to be disinfected in case of contamination.

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7. The name of the public entity that ~~operates an emergency~~provides ambulance service or the name under which the ambulance licensee is doing business or providing service shall be displayed on both sides and the rear of each ~~emergency~~ ambulance. The display of the name shall be in letters in sharp contrast to the background and shall be of such size, shape, and color as to be readily legible during daylight hours from a distance of 50 feet. All ambulances operated under a single license shall display the same identification.

8. A unit number or identifier, of at least two ~~digits~~characters minimum, 3 to 4 inches in height and of a contrasting color from the background, shall be affixed to the right rear and both sides of the front of the vehicle, at a minimum.

9. Medical supplies, solutions, and medications shall be replaced prior to expiration date.

10. Medical equipment and supplies used to treat a patient shall be securely stored to prevent loose flying objects in the case of an ambulance collision and shall be readily accessible for immediate use.

IV. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR EACH AMBULANCE:

The following documentation is required to operate in Orange County and shall be kept current for each ambulance and be made available at time of inspection and upon request:

A. For currently licensed vehicles, a valid County of Orange ambulance license (or facsimile) in the driver compartment.

B. For currently licensed vehicles, a valid County of Orange ambulance license decal affixed to the lower portion of the right rear window of the ambulance.

C. Proof of passage of annual vehicle inspection performed by California Highway Patrol within the preceding twelve (12) months~~.~~ (optional for ambulances operated by a public agency).

D. Proof of passage of current odometer inspection(s) performed by the Division of Weights and Measures of the Agriculture Department of the County of Orange or other California county~~.~~ (optional for ambulances operated by a public agency).

E. Proof of passage of an initial and upon request Med 9 radio inspection(s) performed by the County of Orange Sheriff Coroner's Department of Communications~~.~~ (optional for ambulances operated by a public agency).

F. Current maps or electronic mapping device covering the areas in which the ambulance provides service.

G. 2008 or ~~current~~more recent DOT Emergency Response Guidebook.

V. AMBULANCE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:

Each ambulance operator shall provide within every ambulance the following minimum equipment:

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A. Required medical equipment and supplies for each licensed ambulance:

1. Airway and Ventilation Equipment

   a. Vehicle (house) “H", "M", or equivalent oxygen cylinders (not less than 500 psi) for operation with a wall mount oxygen outlet and variable flow regulator: (1)

   b. Portable "E" cylinders: (1) at full pressure at all times and one (1) at not less than 1000 psi with variable flow regulator: (2) in total **or**

      Portable "D" cylinders: (2) at full pressure at all times and one (1) at not less than 1000 psi with variable flow regulator: (3) in total

   c. Oxygen tank wrench or key device: (1)

   d. Hand operated bag-valve devices with oxygen inlet and reservoir/accumulator (manual resuscitators): (1) Adult (≥ 1000 ml) and (1) child (450-750 ml)

   e. Bag-valve masks: (1) of each size; Adult, Child, Infant, and Neonate

   f. Oropharyngeal Airways: (1) set of multiple standard sizes 0-5

   g. Nasopharyngeal airways: (1) set of multiple standard sizes, no less than four

   h. Nasal cannulas: (2) adult size and (2) child size

   i. Oxygen mask, transparent, non-rebreathing: (2) adult; (2) child and (2) infant (**optional)**

   j. Portable suction equipment.

   k. Wide bore suction tubing, non-collapsible, plastic, semi-rigid: (2)

   l. Hard suction catheters; plastic, semi-rigid, whistle-tipped (finger controlled type is preferred): (2)

   m. Soft suction catheters: #10 French with venturi valve; #14 French with venturi valve; #18 French with venturi valve: (2) each size

2. Bandaging and Immobilization Devices

   a. Clean burn sheets: (2)

   b. 10” x 30” or larger universal dressings: (2)

   c. Individually wrapped sterile gauze pads 3 X 3 or larger: (25 or 1 box)

   d. Bandage scissors: (1)

   e. Rolled gauze bandages: (6) of varying sizes

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f. Petroleum treated gauze dressings (occlusive dressing), 3" x 3" or larger: (2)

g. Adhesive tape rolls; 1" and 2" or 3" width: (2) per size

h. Arterial tourniquet, OCEMS approved type: (1) (**optional**)

i. Cervical collars, rigid type: (1) large, (1) medium, (1) small, and (1) pediatric size collar; **or** (4) multi-size adjustable rigid cervical collars, with pediatric size

j. Head immobilization devices, commercial device or firm padding: (4)

k. Half ring or similar lower extremity (femur) traction device; limb-supporting slings, padded ankle hitch, padded pelvic support, traction strap: (1) each adult and child sizes

l. Splints: medium and long for joint-above and joint-below fractures. Rigid-support constructed with appropriate material (cardboard, metal, pneumatic, vacuum, wood or plastic): for child and adult; (2) per size

m. Long (60" or larger) impervious backboard (radiolucent) with minimum of four straps for immobilization of suspected spinal or back injuries, (1)

n. Short (30" or larger) backboard or equivalent (e.g., KED) for head-to-pelvis immobilization during seated patient extrication, (1)

o. Pediatric immobilization device, designed specifically for patients 40 kg and smaller, (1) examples: pediatric immobilization board, papoose board or other OCEMS approved devices

3. Medical and Miscellaneous Devices

a. Blood pressure manometer

b. Blood pressure cuffs: Adult, Thigh, and Child: (1) each size

c. Pulse oximeter with adult and pediatric probes: (1) (**optional**)

d. FDA approved blood glucometer with lancets and test strips: (1) (**optional**)

e. FDA approved automatic external defibrillator (AED) with adult and child defibrillation pads * (**optional**)

f. Sharps container (meets or exceeds OSHA standards): (1)

g. Biological waste disposal bag (meets or exceeds EPA standards): (1)

h. Stethoscope: (1)

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i. Bedpan: (1)

j. Emesis basin: (1)

k. Urinal: (1)

l. Pen light or flashlight: (1)

m. Tongue depressors: (6)

n. Cold packs: (4)

o. Obstetrical supplies including at a minimum: gloves, two umbilical clamps, sterile dressings, sterile scissors (no scalpel), sterile towels, bulb syringe, and clean plastic bags: (1) set

p. Sterile saline isotonic solution or sterile water in secured, clearly labeled plastic containers: (2) liters

q. Straps to secure the patient to the stretcher or ambulance cot, and means of securing the stretcher or ambulance cot in the vehicle: (2)

r. Sheets, pillow cases, blankets and towels for each stretcher or ambulance cot, and (2) pillows for each ambulance

s. Hard or soft type ankle and wrist restraints designed for quick release; if soft ties are used they should be at least 3" in width (before tying) and maintain at least 2" in width while in use: (2) sets

t. FDA Approved oral glucose paste, tablets or liquid glucose beverage: (2)

VI. REQUIRED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPEMENT (PPE):

In order for ambulance crews to be prepared for an all hazards response, the following shall apply:

A. All personal protective equipment shall be maintained in a clean condition and in good working order at all times.

B. Ambulance personnel should not respond to an incident requiring PPE beyond their level of training, without adhering to published standards.

C. Required PPE shall be kept on each ambulance in an easily accessible location and in sufficient quantity that all persons assigned on an ambulance have necessary and properly fitted protection

D. PPE equipment for each licensed ambulance shall include but not be limited to:

1. Eye protection(ANSI Z87.1 -2003 Standards), may be glasses, face shield, work goggles or mask with side protection and splash resistance for infection control: (2)

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2. Gloves – Work, Multiple use physical protection, cut resistant, barrier protection: (2) pairs (**optional; required for ambulance strike team participation**)

3. Hearing protection, ear plugs or other: (2) sets (cannot be worn while operating vehicle).

4. High-visibility safety apparel that provides visibility during both daytime and nighttime usage and is defined to meet the performance class 2 or 3 requirements of ANSI/ISEA 107-2004: (2) per vehicle

5. Ballistic protective vest: (1) per crew member (**optional, risk dependent**)

6. EMS Jacket, full length long sleeve, blue or OCEMS approved with reflective stripes: (1) per crew member (**optional; required for ambulance strike team participation**)

7. Hard Hat - Work Helmet – Blue, (ANSI Z89.1-1986 Class B; 29 CFR 1910.135 & 29 CFR 1926.100(b); CSA Z94.1-M1992 (Class G), or equivalent: (1) per crew member (**optional; required for ambulance strike team participation**)

8. NIOSH approved (N95) or (N100) filter respirators: (6)

9. P-100 Respirators (8 CCR 5199): (2) **(optional)**

10. Mark I Auto-Injector Kit or Duo Dote: (6) (**optional**)

VII. **REQUIRED PPE TRAINING:**

Prior to use, all personnel who may be required to utilize any of the equipment required in this policy shall receive training in accordance with OSHA requirements (Ref. 26 CFR 1910. 132[f]). At minimum, training shall consist of:

A. Identification of when and what type of PPE is necessary; how to properly don, remove, adjust and wear PPE; the limitations of the PPE; and the proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of the PPE (Ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 [f] [1] [5]).

B. Training in the use of respiratory equipment must cover fitting, fit-testing and proficient use in accordance with OSHA requirements (Ref 29 CFR 1910.134).

C. Demonstration of the ability to use PPE properly before being allowed to perform work requiring the use of PPE (Ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 [f] [2]).

D. Verification that each employee has received and understands the required training through a written certification that contains the course title and date of the training and shall be recorded and maintained in each employee's file.

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