



AMBULANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER CRITERIA

I. AUTHORITY:

California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 8. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.204, 1797.200, & 1798. County of Orange Ambulance Ordinance.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy defines the role integration of air ambulance as OCEMS approved ALS service providers and establishes policy for Air Ambulance EMS aircraft operations, equipment, and personnel responding to incidents within Orange County.

III. DEFINITIONS:

"Air ambulance" means any rotor aircraft specially constructed, modified or equipped, and used for the primary purposes of responding to interfacility transports originating within Orange County, prehospital emergency calls and transporting critically ill or injured patients whose medical flight crew has at a minimum two (2) attendants certified or licensed in advanced life support, one of which is a Registered Nurse (RN).

"Air ambulance service" means an air transportation service which utilizes air ambulances.

"Air ambulance service provider" " means the individual or group that owns and/or operates an air ambulance.

"Coordinating Agency" means the OCEMS approved communication/dispatch center which maintains aircraft availability, notifies appropriate agencies/providers of air ambulance requests, and collects data as required.

"Emergency medical services aircraft" or "EMS aircraft" means any aircraft utilized for the purpose of prehospital emergency patient response and transport. EMS aircraft includes air ambulances and all categories of rescue aircraft.

"EMS Aircraft Provider" means air ambulance and air rescue service ALS service providers and includes any company, lessee, agency (excluding agencies of the federal government), provider, owner, operator who provides or makes available prehospital air transport or medical personnel either directly or indirectly or any hospital where an EMS aircraft is based, housed, or stationed permanently or temporarily.

"ETA - Estimated time of arrival" means the response time in minutes which is updated by direct communications between the air ambulance or air rescue pilot and the incident commander once direct communication is established.

"Incident commander" means the overall scene manager.

"Medical flight crew" means those individuals, excluding the pilot, specifically assigned to care for the patient during aircraft transport and who are at least EMT certified.

"Requestor" means a prehospital care system participant or public safety dispatch agency or coordinating agency authorized to initiate a request for an air ambulance.

"Stand-by" means an air ambulance or air rescue is dedicated to the incident and will be prepared for immediate lift-off upon notification of activation.



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IV. CRITERIA:

Any EMS Aircraft Provider seeking authorization to provide EMS in Orange County will comply with all applicable Orange County Ordinances and OCEMS Polices, applicable sections of the California Code of Regulations Title 22 and pertinent F.A.A. Regulations. Nothing in this policy supersedes or negates compliance with federal regulations.

A. Operations- Designated Orange County Air Ambulance EMS Aircraft shall:

1. Be classified and authorized by the OCEMS in order to provide prehospital patient transport within the jurisdiction of the local EMS agency.
2. Follow activation procedures per Policy #730.20 "Prehospital Air Ambulance and Air Rescue Service Activation Procedure".
3. Establish at least one base of operations within Orange County. All such locations shall comply with applicable zoning, building and occupational health and safety regulations.
 - a. Each base of operations shall be adequate to house the aircraft crew for the aircraft based at that location. Cooking facilities, rest rooms, showers, beds sufficient for all personnel on duty are required of all bases.
4. Ensure one permitted air ambulance aircraft is available to provide EMS Aircraft operations to incidents 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and maintain at a minimum one similarly configured back up aircraft, which is available within a maximum of twenty four hours to maintain service continuity 7 days per week, 24 hours per day.
5. Obtain and maintain accreditation with an Orange County EMS recognized accreditation organization.
6. Meet all county ambulance ordinance licensure requirements.
7. EMS Aircraft provider shall notify OCEMS verbally and in writing any time the EMS Aircraft provider is not in compliance with any applicable federal and/or state laws, and/or OCEMS policies, indicating the reason(s), dates(s), and time(s) for non-compliance and corrective actions that are being taken.
8. Pass an annual OCEMS inspection for all EMS aircraft operating in Orange County.
9. Pay the established fees. (Reference OCEMS Policy #470).

B. Personnel: The medical flight crew of an EMS aircraft shall:

1. Have training in aeromedical transportation as specified and approved by the authorizing EMS agency including but not limited to:
 - (a) General patient care in-flight.
 - (b) Changes in barometric pressure, and pressure related maladies.
 - (c) Changes in partial pressure of oxygen.
 - (d) Other environmental factors affecting patient care.
 - (e) Aircraft operational systems.
 - (f) Aircraft emergencies and safety.
 - (g) Care of patients who require special consideration in the airborne environment.

