



HUNTINGTON BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT

June 11th, 2025

Dr. Carl Schultz
Medical Director
Orange County EMS
405 W. 5th St. Unit #301a
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Activation of BLS Truck Companies to ALS Units

Dear Dr. Schultz:

The Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD) is submitting this letter and notification for the intent to upgrade our two Basic Life Support (BLS) Truck Companies to Advanced Life Support (ALS) units. Per Orange County EMS Policy #705.00, the HBFD is submitting this request for approval per the established criteria from within the policy.

Background

The HBFD operates two BLS truck companies, designated as Huntington Truck 42 (HT42) and Huntington Truck 45 (HT45). Both companies are staffed with four personnel--one Captain, one Engineer and two Firefighters. Each of these companies are a part of a specialty team. HT42 cross staffs our Type 1 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and HT45 cross staffs our Type 1 Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) unit.

HT42 is housed at Murdy Fire Station (16221 Gothard Street), serving the north end of the city. HT45 is located at Lake Fire Station (530 Lake Street), covering the south end. These two facilities are approximately 4.6 miles apart, providing critical coverage across Huntington Beach.

Murdy Fire Station houses a paramedic engine company, one BLS truck company, one 24-hour emergency transport, one 14-hour day emergency transport, one surge emergency transport and one cross-staffed USAR apparatus.

Murdy Fire Station Response Statistics 2024

- Paramedic Engine 42: 3047
- Truck 42: 1657
- Emergency Transport 42: 3537
- Emergency Transport 242: 2208
- Surge Emergency Transport 342: 56

This station services a high-density population that includes large apartment complexes, Bella Terra shopping center, Goldenwest College, the Beach Boulevard corridor, and the 405 Freeway.



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Lake Fire Station houses a paramedic engine company, one BLS truck company and one 24-hour emergency transport.

Lake Fire Station Response Statistics 2024

- Paramedic Engine 45: 3240
- Truck 45: 1580
- Emergency Transport 45: 3349

This station serves a large population that includes a majority of our beaches, the downtown area of Huntington Beach including several major hotels and apartment complexes, Pacific City, the Beach Blvd corridor and Pacific Coast Highway. This station will see millions of visitors to the city beaches annually, along with major events such as the US Open of Surfing, the Pacific Air Show, numerous concerts, festivals, marathons and sporting competitions.

Justification for ALS Upgrade

- Enhanced ALS support for specialty teams (USAR and HAZMAT)
- Improved EMS coverage for two of our busiest districts
- Projected 20% call reduction on nearby paramedic engines
- Increased ALS unit availability within Huntington Beach
- Reduced reliance on mutual/automatic aid from neighboring agencies

While we are not requesting a variance, we feel it is important to note that Huntington Beach serves a base population of over 200,000 residents, augmented by over 14 million annual visitors and a large commuting workforce. This results in population demands far exceed the 64,000-resident benchmark referenced in Board of Supervisors Resolution 79-240.

Implementation Timeline

The proposed implementation date to upgrade both truck companies to ALS units is August 2nd, 2025. The HBFD will utilize current OCEMS accredited paramedics to staff both truck companies to ensure a total of two OCEMS paramedics are staffing each truck company daily. Staffing will remain at four personnel per truck company, with at least two personnel being OCEMS accredited paramedics.

Oversight will be maintained by our Emergency Response Deputy Chief, with clinical governance supported by our Division Chief of Operations, Chief Medical Officer, EMS/CQI Registered Nurse, and EMS Captain. The addition of these ALS truck companies will bring the total number of paramedic units in Huntington Beach to ten.

Summation

The HBFD has support from the entire City Council and has already received budgetary approval for the fiscal year of 25/26 for the upgrade.

The HBFD is committed to advancing emergency medical services and maintaining our longstanding reputation for excellence. As an OCEMS partner, we are proud to have pioneered



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several innovative programs, including our ambulance operator model, transcutaneous pacing, PIT crew CPR, and the county's first COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (714) 536-5411 or via email at emccoy@surfcity-hb.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric McCoy", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric McCoy
Fire Chief