

Veterinary Medical Board

1747 N. MARKET BOULEVARD, SUITE 230, SACRAMENTO, CA 95834
TELEPHONE: 916-515-5220 FAX: 916-928-6849 | WWW.VMB.CA.GOV



MEMORANDUM

DATE	August 20, 2018
TO	Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee
FROM	Amanda Drummond, Administrative Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT	Minimum Standards and Protocols for Pet Ambulances; Potential Recommendation to Full Board

Background:

In recent years, more consumers are utilizing pet ambulances to transport their animals to and from veterinary hospitals. During the February 2018 Veterinary Medical Board (Board) meeting, the Board directed the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) to determine if there are existing regulations or standards for pet ambulances in California. If there are neither, the MDC is asked to determine if this is something the Board should address. This memo discusses current statutes and regulations applicable to pet ambulances, personnel providing services in pet ambulances, and what other states are doing to regulate them.

Pet Ambulance as a Premises

Business and Professions Code (BPC) section [4853](#) requires all premises where veterinary medicine, veterinary dentistry, veterinary surgery, and the various branches thereof is being practiced to be registered with the Board. BPC section 4853 defines “premises” to include a mobile unit or vehicle, but exempts from registration mobile units and vehicles operated from a building or facility which is the licensee manager’s principal place of business and the building is registered with the Board. Accordingly, if a pet ambulance, as a mobile unit or vehicle, is transporting animals and veterinary medicine is performed on those animals during transport, the pet ambulance would be subject to the registration requirements of BPC section 4853. If the pet ambulance is operated from a licensee manager’s registered building, the pet ambulance would not need to be separately registered. If the pet ambulance is owned and operated as a separate mobile unit, the ambulance would need to be registered with a responsible licensee manager named to act for and on behalf of the pet ambulance.

In addition, the pet ambulance may be subject to the minimum standards set forth for small animal mobile clinics delineated in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) section [2030.2](#), which applies to a trailer or mobile facility established to function as a veterinary premises that concentrates in providing veterinary services to common domestic household pets and is required to be registered with the Board.

Individuals Transporting Animals in Pet Ambulance

BPC section [4825](#) makes it unlawful for any person to practice veterinary medicine or any branch thereof unless at the time of so doing, the person holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license as provided under the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (Act). For individuals providing veterinary care to animals transported in a pet ambulance, those individuals would need to be appropriately licensed or registered with the Board.

If the individual is a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT), he or she may render some emergency services to the transported animal without direct supervision of a veterinarian pursuant to BPC section [4840.5](#), which defines “emergency” to mean that the animal has been placed in a life-threatening condition where immediate treatment is necessary. CCR section [2069](#) provides a list of veterinary medical services that an RVT can provide in an emergency, which includes administering drugs after talking to a veterinarian or in accordance with written instructions of the employing veterinarian, administering resuscitative oxygen, and intubation. Outside of an emergency, the RVT is subject to practice supervision as provided in CCR section [2036](#).

Notably, Senate Bill (SB) [1305](#), which is currently proceeding through the legislative process, would create an exemption from licensure requirements under the Act for emergency medical services (EMS/EMT) providers, who are certified or licensed to perform medical services on humans under the Health and Safety Code, so that they could provide basic first aid and ambulance transportation of animals in emergency situations.

California Highway Patrol (CHP) on Human vs. Pet Ambulances

According to a CHP representative, human ambulances, or “authorized emergency vehicles,” must be licensed or permitted by CHP, but not animal ambulances (Vehicle Code (VC) § [165](#)). The CHP inspects each ambulance for safety and basic equipment. The Department of Motor Vehicles conducts ambulance driver testing, and issues ambulance driver certificates (VC § [2512](#)). However, day-to-day management of ambulances and emergency medical services falls to the county or other local entities who establish protocols, authorize ambulance services, and contract with providers.

The CHP representative expressed concern over the lack of pet ambulance regulation. When contacted by potential animal ambulance owners in the past, the representative recommends they obtain a business license. She also reminds them they are only authorized to have a flashing amber light, not a red light like most emergency response vehicles (VC §§ [25271](#) and [25271.5](#)).

The CHP representative further explained that pet ambulances fall into a similar category for people called “ambulets.” They look like an ambulance, minus the red lights, but they take people to appointments and provide non-emergency services. These vehicles are also not permitted or regulated by CHP, and there are only two counties that currently regulate those vehicles – Los Angeles and San Diego county.

Pet Ambulances in Other States

Board staff contacted the Connecticut, Florida, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Washington Veterinary Medical Boards, all of which appear to have operating pet ambulance services within their state.

The Ohio and New York Veterinary Medical Boards have no current regulations over pet ambulances and indicated that as long as the pet ambulance operator was acting under the purview of their license (i.e. not providing services if they are unlicensed or RVTs only providing services under the direction of a veterinarian), then the pet ambulances were not violating their Practice Act. If the ambulances were strictly providing transportation services and offering no medical services, then they also were not violating their Practice Act.

The Michigan and Washington Veterinary Medical Boards indicated that they do not have regulatory authority over pet ambulances nor do they monitor them.

The other veterinary medical boards contacted were aware of the various types of pet ambulances, and, as long as the ambulance personnel were acting under the purview of their license, they were not concerned.

Action Requested:

After discussing the above information, please determine if pet ambulances and/or pet ambulance operators in California should be subject to more specific statutes/regulations and make recommendations to the full Board.

Attachments:

1. Above Referenced Statutes and Regulations
2. SB [1305](#) as amended on June 27, 2018
3. [California Ambulance Industry](#), California Ambulance Association

Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 4853:

- a) All premises where veterinary medicine, veterinary dentistry, veterinary surgery, and the various branches thereof is being practiced shall be registered with the board. The certificate of registration shall be on a form prescribed in accordance with Section 164.
- b) "Premises" for the purpose of this chapter shall include a building, kennel, mobile unit, or vehicle. Mobile units and vehicles shall be exempted from independent registration with the board when they are operated from a building or facility which is the licensee manager's principal place of business and the building is registered with the board, and the registration identifies and declares the use of the mobile unit or vehicle.
- c) Every application for registration of veterinary premises shall set forth in the application the name of the responsible licensee manager who is to act for and on behalf of the licensed premises. Substitution of the responsible licensee manager may be accomplished by application to the board if the following conditions are met:
 1. The person substituted qualifies by presenting satisfactory evidence that he or she possesses a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license as provided by this chapter and that the license is not currently under suspension.
 2. No circumvention of the law is contemplated by the substitution.

(Amended by Stats. 1997, Ch. 642, Sec. 21. Effective January 1, 1998.)

California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 2030.2. Small Animal Mobile Clinic.

For purposes of these regulations, a "small animal mobile clinic" shall mean a trailer or mobile facility established to function as a veterinary premises which concentrates in providing veterinary services to common domestic household pets and is required by section 4853 of the code to be registered with the board.

- a) A small animal mobile clinic shall have:
 1. Hot and cold water.
 2. A 110-volt power source for diagnostic equipment.
 3. A collection tank for disposal of waste material.
 4. Lighting adequate for the procedures to be performed in the mobile clinic.
 5. Floors, table tops, and counter tops shall be of a non-porous material suitable for regular disinfecting, and cleaning, and shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
 6. Compartments to transport or hold animals, if applicable.
- b) A small animal mobile clinic shall also have:
 1. indoor lighting for halls, wards, reception areas, examining and surgical rooms, which shall be adequate for its intended purpose.
 2. an examination room, which shall be of sufficient size to accommodate the doctor, assistant, patient and client.
 3. fire precautions that meet the requirements of local and state fire prevention codes,
 4. temperature and ventilation controls adequate to assure the comfort of all patients.
 5. A small animal mobile clinic which provides aseptic surgical services shall also have a room, separate and distinct from other rooms, which shall be reserved for aseptic surgical procedures. Storage in the surgery

room shall be limited to items and equipment normally related to surgery and surgical procedures. A veterinarian may perform emergency aseptic surgical procedures in another room when the room designated for aseptic surgery is occupied or temporarily unavailable. A small animal mobile clinic which provides aseptic surgical services and that is currently registered with the board, but does not have a separate room reserved for aseptic surgical procedures, shall provide the board with the vehicle identification number of the mobile clinic and obtain compliance with this subdivision on or before January 1, 2006.

(A) A small animal mobile clinic that provides aseptic surgery shall also have an examination area separate from the surgery room that is large enough to conduct an examination.

- c) A small animal mobile clinic shall have the ability and equipment to provide immediate emergency care at a level commensurate with the specific veterinary medical services it is providing.
- d) A small animal mobile clinic shall provide either after hours emergency services to its patients or, if no after hours emergency care is available, full disclosure to the public prior to rendering services.
- e) When the client has not given the veterinarian authorization to dispose of his or her deceased animal, the veterinarian shall be required to retain the carcass in a freezer for at least 14 days prior to disposal.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4853 and 4854, Business and Professions Code.

BPC § 4825.

It is unlawful for any person to practice veterinary medicine or any branch thereof in this State unless at the time of so doing, such person holds a valid, unexpired, and unrevoked license as provided in this chapter.

(Amended by Stats. 1961, Ch. 1395.)

BPC § 4840.5.

Under conditions of an emergency, a registered veterinary technician may render such lifesaving aid and treatment as may be prescribed under regulations adopted by the board pursuant to Section 4836. Such emergency aid and treatment if rendered to an animal patient not in the presence of a licensed veterinarian may only be continued under the direction of a licensed veterinarian. "Emergency" for the purpose of this section, means that the animal has been placed in a life-threatening condition where immediate treatment is necessary.

(Amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 429, Sec. 11. (SB 547) Effective January 1, 2018.)

CCR § 2069. Emergency Animal Care.

Emergency animal care rendered by registered veterinary technician.

Under conditions of an emergency as defined in Section 4840.5, a registered veterinary technician may render the following life saving aid and treatment to an animal:

1. Application of tourniquets and/or pressure bandages to control hemorrhage.
2. Administration of pharmacological agents to prevent or control shock, including parenteral fluids, shall be performed after direct communication with a licensed veterinarian or veterinarian authorized to practice in this

state. In the event that direct communication cannot be established, the registered veterinary technician may perform in accordance with written instructions established by the employing veterinarian. Such veterinarian shall be authorized to practice in this state.

3. Resuscitative oxygen procedures.
4. Establishing open airways including intubation appliances but excluding surgery.
5. External cardiac resuscitation.
6. Application of temporary splints or bandages to prevent further injury to bones or soft tissues.
7. Application of appropriate wound dressings and external supportive treatment in severe burn cases.
8. External supportive treatment in heat prostration cases.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808 and 4836, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4840.5, Business and Professions Code.

CCR § 2036. Animal Health Care Tasks for R.V.T.

- a) Unless specifically so provided by regulation, a R.V.T. shall not perform the following functions or any other activity which represents the practice of veterinary medicine or requires the knowledge, skill and training of a licensed veterinarian:
 1. Surgery;
 2. Diagnosis and prognosis of animal diseases;
 3. Prescription of drugs, medicines or appliances.
- b) An R.V.T. may perform the following procedures only under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian:
 1. Induce anesthesia;
 2. Apply casts and splints;
 3. Perform dental extractions;
 4. Suture cutaneous and subcutaneous tissues, gingiva and oral mucous membranes,
 5. Create a relief hole in the skin to facilitate placement of an intravascular catheter
- c) An RVT may perform the following procedures under indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian:
 1. Administer controlled substances.
- d) Subject to the provisions of subsection(s) (a), (b) and (c) of this section, an R.V.T. may perform animal health care tasks under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The degree of supervision by a licensed veterinarian over a R.V.T. shall be consistent with standards of good veterinary medical practices.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 4808, 4826 and 4836, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4836, 4840 and 4840.2, Business and Professions Code.

Vehicle Code (VC) § 165.

An authorized emergency vehicle is:

- a) Any publicly owned and operated ambulance, lifeguard, or lifesaving equipment or any privately owned or operated ambulance licensed by the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol to operate in response to emergency calls.

- b) Any publicly owned vehicle operated by the following persons, agencies, or organizations:
 - 1. Any federal, state, or local agency, department, or district employing peace officers as that term is defined in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Part 2 of Title 3 of the Penal Code, for use by those officers in the performance of their duties.
 - 2. Any forestry or fire department of any public agency or fire department organized as provided in the Health and Safety Code.
- c) Any vehicle owned by the state, or any bridge and highway district, and equipped and used either for fighting fires, or towing or servicing other vehicles, caring for injured persons, or repairing damaged lighting or electrical equipment.
- d) Any state-owned vehicle used in responding to emergency fire, rescue, or communications calls and operated either by the Office of Emergency Services or by any public agency or industrial fire department to which the Office of Emergency Services has assigned the vehicle.
- e) Any vehicle owned or operated by any department or agency of the United States government when the vehicle is used in responding to emergency fire, ambulance, or lifesaving calls or is actively engaged in law enforcement work.
- f) Any vehicle for which an authorized emergency vehicle permit has been issued by the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol.

(Amended by Stats. 2013, Ch. 352, Sec. 516. (AB 1317) Effective September 26, 2013. Operative July 1, 2013, by Sec. 543 of Ch. 352.)

VC § 2512.

- a) The commissioner, after consultation with, and pursuant to the recommendations of, the Emergency Medical Service Authority and the department, shall adopt and enforce reasonable regulations as the commissioner determines are necessary for the public health and safety regarding the operation, equipment, and certification of drivers of all ambulances used for emergency services. The regulations shall not conflict with standards established by the Emergency Medical Service Authority pursuant to Section 1797.170 of the Health and Safety Code. The commissioner shall exempt, upon request of the county board of supervisors that an exemption is necessary for public health and safety, noncommercial ambulances operated within the county from the regulations adopted under this section as are specified in the board of supervisors' request. The Emergency Medical Service Authority shall be notified by the county boards of supervisors of any exemptions.
- b) The department, in cooperation with the Department of the California Highway Patrol and the Emergency Medical Service Authority, may adopt and administer regulations relating to the issuance, suspension, or revocation of ambulance driver's certificates. In addition to the fee authorized in Section 2427, the department shall charge a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) for the issuance of an original certificate and twelve dollars (\$12) for the renewal of that certificate, and, in the administration thereof, to exercise the powers granted to the commissioner by this section.
- c) This section shall not preclude the adoption of more restrictive regulations by local authorities, except that inspection of ambulances pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 2510 shall not be duplicated by local authorities. It is the intent of the Legislature that regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this

section shall be the minimum necessary to protect public health and safety, and shall not be so restrictive as to preclude compliance by ambulances operated in sparsely populated areas. This subdivision does not relieve the owner or driver of any ambulance from compliance with Section 21055.

- d) The Department of the California Highway Patrol after consultation with the department and the Emergency Medical Service Authority shall prepare, and make available for purchase, an ambulance driver's handbook.

(Amended by Stats. 1996, Ch. 440, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 1997.)

VC § 25271.

Any publicly owned vehicle or any vehicle operated by a corporation incorporated under Part 4 (commencing with Section 10400) of Division 2 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code for the purpose of the prevention of cruelty to animals, when used for removing dead animals, injured animals, or loose livestock, may, display flashing amber warning lights to the front or rear when necessarily parked on the roadway or when moving at a speed slower than the normal flow of traffic.

(Added by Stats. 1961, Ch. 653.)

VC § 25271.5.

Any publicly owned vehicle used for the enforcement of animal control laws contained in a statute, local ordinance, or regulation may display flashing or revolving amber warning lights to the front, sides, or rear of the vehicle when actually engaged in the enforcement of those laws and when necessarily parked on a roadway or moving at a speed slower than the normal flow of traffic.

(Added by Stats. 1985, Ch. 131, Sec. 1.)

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 27, 2018

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 20, 2018

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 25, 2018

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 26, 2018

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 9, 2018

SENATE BILL

No. 1305

Introduced by Senator Glazer

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Baker and Steinorth)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members ~~Cervantes Bloom~~, *Cervantes*, and
Mullin)

February 16, 2018

An act to add Section 1799.109 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to emergency medical services providers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1305, as amended, Glazer. Emergency medical services providers: dogs and cats.

Existing law, the Emergency Medical Services System and the Prehospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act (the act), establishes the Emergency Medical Services Authority to coordinate and integrate all state activities concerning emergency medical services, including, among other duties, establishing training standards for specified emergency services personnel. The act provides a qualified immunity for public entities and emergency rescue personnel providing emergency services. The act provides other exemptions from liability for specified professionals rendering emergency medical services.

Existing law, the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, governs the practice of veterinary medicine in this state and makes it unlawful for any person to practice veterinary medicine in this state without a valid license issued pursuant to the act. For purposes of the act, the practice of veterinary medicine includes, among other things, administering a drug, appliance, or treatment for the cure or relief of a wound, fracture, or bodily injury of an animal.

This bill would authorize an emergency medical services provider, as defined, to provide basic first aid to dogs and cats, as defined, to the extent that the provision of that care is not prohibited by the provider's employer. The bill would ~~exempt that provider and his or her employer from liability for civil damages, and would exempt the provider from other disciplinary action, for providing that care, except as specified.~~ *limit civil liability for specified individuals who provide care to a pet or other domesticated animal during an emergency by applying existing provisions of state law.* The definition of "basic first aid to dogs and cats" for purposes of these provisions would specifically include, among other acts, administering oxygen and bandaging for the purpose of stopping bleeding.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1799.109 is added to the Health and
- 2 Safety Code, to read:
- 3 1799.109. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 4 following:
- 5 (1) California residents receive comfort and unconditional love
- 6 on a daily basis from their household pets, particularly dogs and
- 7 cats.
- 8 (2) California residents benefit from the special support, comfort,
- 9 guidance, companionship, and therapy provided by dogs and cats.
- 10 (3) Pets provide critical support to many California residents
- 11 with disabilities.
- 12 (4) Pets provide assistance and aid in the official duties of
- 13 military personnel, peace officers, law enforcement agencies, fire
- 14 departments, and search-and-rescue agencies.
- 15 (5) Personnel of some fire districts and other first responder
- 16 agencies currently provide stabilizing, life-saving emergency care

3

1 to dogs and cats, which violates the Veterinary Medicine Practice
2 Act.

3 (6) In enacting this section, it is the intent of the Legislature to
4 authorize emergency medical service providers to provide, on a
5 voluntary basis, basic first aid to dogs and ~~eats~~ *cats without*
6 *exposure to criminal prosecution or professional discipline for*
7 *the unlawful practice of veterinary medicine.*

8 (b) Notwithstanding the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, as
9 set forth in Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 4800) of
10 Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code, an emergency
11 medical services provider may provide basic first aid to dogs and
12 cats to the extent that the provision of that care is not prohibited
13 by the provider's ~~employer~~ *employer, and the provider shall not*
14 *be subject to criminal prosecution for a violation of Section 4831*
15 *of the Business and Professions Code.*

16 ~~(e) An emergency medical services provider and his or her~~
17 ~~employer are not liable for civil damages, and an emergency~~
18 ~~medical services provider is not subject to criminal prosecution or~~
19 ~~professional disciplinary action, for an act or omission resulting~~
20 ~~from the provision of basic first aid to dogs and cats pursuant to~~
21 ~~this section, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton~~
22 ~~misconduct.~~

23 (c) *Civil liability for a person who provides care to a pet or*
24 *other domesticated animal during an emergency is governed by*
25 *the following provisions of law:*

26 (1) *Section 4826.1 of the Business and Professions Code governs*
27 *care provided by a veterinarian.*

28 (2) *Subdivision (a) of Section 1799.102 governs care provided*
29 *by an emergency medical services provider, or law enforcement*
30 *and emergency personnel specified in this chapter.*

31 (3) *Subdivision (b) of Section 1799.102 governs care provided*
32 *by any person other than an individual described in paragraph*
33 *(1) or (2).*

34 (d) Notwithstanding any other law, this section does not impose
35 a duty or obligation upon an emergency medical services provider
36 *or any other person to provide care to a ~~dog or cat~~ an injured pet*
37 *or other domesticated animal during an emergency.*

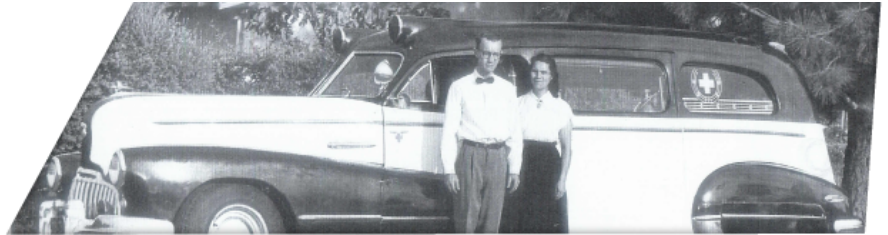
38 (e) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

39 (1) "Cat" means a small domesticated feline animal that is kept
40 as a pet. "Cat" does not include nondomesticated wild animals.

4

- 1 (2) “Dog” means a domesticated canine animal owned for
2 companionship, service, therapeutic, or assistance purposes.
- 3 (3) “Emergency medical services provider” means a person who
4 is certified or licensed to provide emergency medical services.
- 5 (4) “Employer” means an entity or organization that employs
6 or enlists the services of an emergency medical services provider.
- 7 (5) (A) “Basic first aid to dogs and cats” means providing
8 immediate medical care to a dog or cat by an emergency medical
9 services provider, in an emergency situation to which the
10 emergency medical services provider is responding, through the
11 following means:
- 12 (i) Administering oxygen.
 - 13 (ii) Managing ventilation by mask.
 - 14 (iii) Manually clearing the upper airway, not including tracheal
15 intubation or surgical procedures.
 - 16 (iv) Giving ~~mouth-to-snout or mouth-to-barrier ventilation.~~
17 *mouth-to-mouth ventilation, including with the use of a barrier.*
 - 18 (v) Controlling hemorrhage with direct pressure.
 - 19 (vi) Bandaging for the purpose of stopping bleeding.
- 20 (B) “Basic first aid to dogs and cats” is intended to enable the
21 dog or cat to be transported as soon as practical to a veterinarian
22 for treatment. “Basic first aid to dogs and cats” does not include
23 care provided in response to an emergency call made solely for
24 the purpose of tending to an injured dog or cat, unless a person’s
25 life could be placed in danger attempting to save the life of the
26 dog or cat.

O



[Home Page](#) [About CAA](#) [News & Events](#) [Public Policy](#) [Members Only](#) [Siren Magazine](#) [Join CAA](#) [Contact CAA](#) [Log In](#)



2/8

California's Ambulance Industry

By the numbers:

- 715 total public and private ambulance services statewide
- 170 private-sector ambulance services
- 3,600 licensed ambulances
- 74% of ambulances are operated by private providers
- 60,000 EMTs and 20,000 paramedics statewide
- 20,000 people are employed by private ambulance services
- 337 emergency ambulance service areas (zones) statewide, of which more than 220 are served by private ambulance companies.
- The estimated total annual expenditures for ground ambulance services in California, is approximately \$2 billion.
- Statewide, public and private providers annually deliver over \$320 million in charity care
- Ambulance service providers lose \$165 million annually due to below-cost reimbursement by Medi-Cal and Medicare.

EMS Oversight, Regulation and Statute

Ambulance service in California falls under several layers of oversight.

Day-to-day EMS system management is a county responsibility. Each county must designate a local EMS agency (LEMSA) which can be an agency established and operated by the county or an entity with which the county contracts for the purposes of EMS administration. Currently, California has 32 LEMSAs - seven multi-county LEMSAs and 25 single county LEMSAs. They establish local protocols, authorize ambulance services to operate within the system, and contract with providers for ambulance service in each ground ambulance zone within the county. The county performs other functions including disaster preparedness and certification of emergency medical technicians.

At the state level, the Emergency Medical Services Authority enforces the statutes in the Emergency Medical Services Act, Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, and develops and implements regulations in California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9: Prehospital Emergency Medical Services to implement those laws. The Authority also approves local EMS plans submitted by the county's local EMS agency to ensure that they contribute to an organized statewide EMS system, comply with statute and regulation and meet the needs of the persons served. In addition, the Authority licenses and disciplines paramedics, regulates training programs, and coordinates disaster preparedness.

The California Commission on Emergency Medical Services is an 18-member body representing the wide variety of EMS stakeholders. The duties of the Commission include approving regulations and guidelines developed by the Authority and providing advice to the Authority on the assessment of emergency facilities and services. The Commission may also hear an appeal by a local EMS agency regarding a local EMS plan. The Commission meets quarterly at locations throughout the state. The California Ambulance Association holds a seat on the Commission.

In addition, the California Highway Patrol inspects each non-government ambulance for safety and basic equipment and issues ambulance permits, and also conducts ambulance driver testing and issues ambulance driver certificates.

[Webinar - Veteran's Insurance Billing](#)

8/16/2018 Webinar

[Brochure](#)

[2018 Annual Convention & Reimbursement Conference](#)

9/25/2018 - Harvey's Lake Tahoe
9/28/2018 Resort

[Sponsorship](#)

[Online Registration](#)

[2019 Stars of Life Celebration & Legislative Summit](#)

4/15/2019 - Sheraton Grand
4/16/2019 Sacramento

[2019 Annual Convention & Reimbursement Conference](#)

9/24/2019 - Hyatt Regency Mission
9/27/2019 Bay
San Diego, CA

[2020 Annual Convention & Reimbursement Conference](#)

9/22/2020 - Harvey's Lake Tahoe
9/25/2020 Resort

Ambulance Service Distribution

The state is divided into 337 ambulance service areas, or zones. The zones do not necessarily conform to city boundaries as they were designed to combine high-density and low-density areas to ensure market feasibility to effectively support provision of service to the entire population. The Health and Safety Code allows local EMS agencies to allocate market rights in each zone to one or more emergency ambulance providers by creating an Exclusive Operating Area (EOA).

Establishment of EOAs must strictly follow the provisions of Section 1797.224 in order to ensure state action immunity under federal antitrust laws. Section 1797.224 requires a competitive process be conducted at periodic intervals to select one or more providers for an EOA, but allows a local EMS agency to non-competitively contract with, or "grandfather," existing providers, whether public or private, that has been providing services in the same "manner and scope" without interruption since January 1, 1981. There are currently 205 exclusive operating areas in California, of which 128 are grandfathered.

Section 1797.201 authorizes certain cities and fire districts which have provided EMS since 1980 to continue to provide service within their boundaries, subject to medical control by the applicable LEMSA, until they enter into an agreement with the LEMSA for system administration. These so-called "201" entities may not expand into a new "type" of EMS (such as expanding from non-transport first response to ambulance transport) without the LEMSAs approval.

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [News & Events](#) | [Members](#) | [Contact](#)

Copyright © 2012 - 2018 California Ambulance Association
Developed/Maintained by [California Advocates, Inc.](#)