

I. Purpose

- A. To establish guidelines for annual Ambulance Permits for vehicles being used by transport providers with valid Certificates of Operation in San Benito County.

II. Authority

- A. San Benito County EMS Ordinance No. 923, Sections 11.09.016, 11.09.017 and 11.09.035

III. Definitions

- A. Provider: a person, firm, partnership, corporation or other organization which furnishes or offers patient care and/or transport services.
- B. Transport Vehicle: refers to any vehicle used for patient care and/or transport which include ambulances, regardless of type or level of care, gurney van, wheelchair van or an authorized Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) that is staffed with one paramedic for first response to emergency 9-1-1 calls within the county.
- C. Certificate of Operation: written authorization from the San Benito EMS Agency to operate Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS) and Critical Care Transport (CCT) ambulances, air ambulances, gurney and wheelchair vans or QRV in San Benito County.
- D. Ambulance Permit: the document issued by San Benito EMS Agency for any Transport Vehicle conforming to the requirements of the EMS Ordinance, which are owned or controlled by Provider holding a valid Certificate of Operation.

IV. Policy

- A. Each Transport Vehicle shall be equipped according to the standard vehicle safety and equipment requirements of the California Vehicle Code and the California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Motor Vehicles
- B. Each Transport Vehicle shall carry a photocopy or original current vehicle registration, current insurance identification, current CHP ambulance identification card (or CHP Inspection Report valid for 30 days after initial inspection) and current San Benito County issued Ambulance Permit.
- C. Each Transport Vehicle shall carry standard patient carrying fixtures and restraints necessary for the comfort and safety of patients.
- D. Each Transport Vehicle shall be equipped with no less than the standardized equipment and supplies as established according to the California Highway Patrol.
- E. Provider shall maintain its vehicles, equipment and supplies in a clean, sanitary and safe mechanical condition at all times.



- V. Transport Vehicle Inspection and Permit Process
- A. No person, firm, partnership, corporation or other organization, except as identified in section 11.09.007 of the EMS Ordinance, shall operate or cause any ambulance, quick response vehicle, and gurney or wheelchair van to be operated in San Benito County unless an Ambulance Permit has been issued for that vehicle in accordance with these regulations.
  - B. The Provider shall allow the San Benito County EMS Agency to inspect, on a pre-announced or unannounced basis, all vehicles used to provide services. The inspections should be held, whenever possible, during normal business hours at the Provider's operations center. The purpose of such inspections is to determine if the vehicle and its equipment and supplies are in good working order, properly maintained and equipped for the provision of service for which it is permitted. The inspection will be for all equipment identified in the EMS policies, which has not been inspected by the CHP under the California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Vehicle Code, Division 2, Chapter 2, Article 1, sections 1103 and 1103.2.
  - C. The Provider shall inform the EMS Agency within 24 hours of any suspension and/or revocation of their California Highway Patrol Ambulance Service License, or Vehicle Certificate, or Authorized Emergency Vehicle Permit for any of their support vehicle(s).
  - D. In the event that a Provider adds another transport vehicle(s) to its operations or permanently replaces a permitted vehicle that is no longer in operation with another vehicle for the same level of care:
    - E. That vehicle must be reported to the EMS Agency prior to operation;
    - F. Meet all the requirements outlined in this policy, EMS Ordinance and California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Vehicle Code and;
    - G. Pay the permit fees associated with that resource as outlined by EMS Fee Schedule.
- VI. A Provider using any transport vehicle without a valid Ambulance Permit in San Benito County is subject to fines and may result in suspension or revocation of Provider's Certificate of Operation.



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