

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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DATE: June 27, 2008

TO: Local EMS Agency Administrators
Local EMS Agency Medical Directors
Other Interested Parties

FROM: R. Steve Tharratt, MD, MPVM
Director

In support of the large number of wildfires currently burning in California, the California Emergency Medical Services Authority is providing this information to non-California certified and/or licensed EMT-I and paramedics regarding requirements for practice within California. EMSA encourages LEMSA's to support and appropriately integrate these resources as needed into the local EMS system to provide for necessary EMS services within their communities. EMSA is prepared to support any requests by LEMSA's that are not covered by the procedures below to allow for maintenance of EMS services.

- Firefighter EMTs and Paramedics responding to California from another state to provide aid in fighting wild land fires should check in with the Medical Unit Leader of the fire camp to which they are assigned. The Medical Unit Leader should then notify the respective local EMS agency medical director that the out-of-state firefighter EMTs and Paramedics are in the jurisdiction of the local EMS agency medical director.
- In the event that any non-California certified/licensed EMT or Paramedic provides medical care for which they have been trained and licensed or certified, ancillary to their firefighting responsibilities, the EMT or Paramedic should complete a patient care report and submit the report to the medical director of the local EMS agency which has jurisdiction where the patient care was provided. In the event the EMT or Paramedic does not have the information on the respective local EMS agency medical director, the patient care report should be submitted to the Director of the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority, who will then route the patient care report to the appropriate local EMS agency medical director.
- If a non-California firefighter EMT or Paramedic is assigned to a fire station to backfill for California firefighters deployed to fight fires or participate in other emergency responses, the out-of-state firefighter EMT or Paramedic shall notify, and receive authorization from, the local EMS agency medical director who has jurisdiction over the area in which the firefighter EMT or Paramedic is providing services. This may be done by the Strike Team Leader or Area Medical Unit Leader as appropriate.
- A list of the 31 local EMS agencies in California and the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority contact information will be available through the Office of Emergency Services' Emergency Operations Center and the EMS Authority's website at www.emsa.ca.gov.