



Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

**Standing Committee Update
May 8, 2017**

Topics Referred to Committee

- The new EMS Ordinance: elimination of a “per call fee” for ambulance operators based on the number of calls received (and all uses for this fee, including volunteer fire agency equipment and supplies)
- How Ambulance Service Areas differ from Fire District and Local Area Formation Commission Boundaries
- EMS Policy & Procedure development processes

EMS Projects in 2017

**January
2017**

- Revised Ordinance to BOS

**Spring/Summer
2017**

- Release EOA & Dispatch RFP's

**Summer/Fall
2017**

- Finalize Contracts

**July
2018**

- New Contracts Begin

EMS Ordinance

- Mendocino County Chapter 9.05 – addressing all aspects of pre-hospital medical care
- Supports a more modernized EMS system
- Establishes the authority to form an inland Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) relating to ambulance services for Mendocino County
- Critical care transport ground and air services, Advanced Life Support (ALS), and Basic Life Support (BLS)
- Values consistent delivery of high quality care

EMS Service Areas

The primary principle is closest resource
Our goal is to provide a patient-centric EMS system

The closest unit to the emergency is dispatched.

Fire agencies respond to EMS calls within their district as first responders, but will routinely receive assistance from other jurisdictions if no unit is available.

Ambulance zones are created by determining the midpoint between station locations, and drawing boundaries to identify the closest ambulance to a given location.

EMS System History

Pre-1970

Basic medical care provided by Ambulance Services often operated by funeral service providers or hospitals.

Fire Departments responding as rescuers but transport not a usual service.

No state-sanctioned paramedic certification.

1970

Wedworth-Townsend Paramedic Act signed:

- Authorized paramedic level care in California.
- Did not provide for local or statewide coordinated systems.

Some municipal and district governments began operating paramedic services under this authority.

1980

Health and Safety Code Div. 2.5 - the "EMS Act"

California EMS Authority established as the state regulator.

California Code of Regulations Title 22 amended to include EMS Act mandates.

Local EMS Agencies designated as the county-level body to direct the local systems

EMS Now

State Authority

California EMS Authority

Promulgates regulations governing provision and oversight of EMS statewide.

Approves EMS plans submitted by Local EMS Agencies for the county or regional EMS system.

Coordinates statewide EMS disaster response.

Licensing body for paramedics.

EMS Now

Local Authority

Local EMS Agency (LEMSA)



Required by California Health and Safety Code Div 2.5 for implementation of an Advanced Life Support (paramedic level) EMS System.

Sonoma County Department of Health Services has been designated as the LEMSA for Sonoma and (through contract) Mendocino Counties.

Functioning under the identity **Coastal Valleys EMS Agency**, the LEMSA has EMS administrative and regulatory oversight responsibilities for both counties.

EMS Now

Local Authority

The primary function of the LEMSA is to plan, implement, and evaluate the local EMS system and its various components to assure high quality across all aspects of pre-hospital medical care

Policy development and implementation

Medical control

Quality improvement

Coordination and monitoring of air and ground ambulances

Permitting of ambulance providers

Certifying entity for EMTs

Accrediting body for paramedics

Designation of specialty care hospitals

Disaster medical response preparedness



Next Steps

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Other FY 2017-18 Ideas

- Continue and/or expand the ALS enhancement projects that began in 2014/15
- Provide consultant services to explore billing and other fiscal leveraging strategies with fire district partners
- Other ideas/suggestions?

Responsibility to the Public



Working across sectors and aligning organizational practices