

**POLICY #208: GUIDELINES FOR USE OF OUT-OF-COUNTY  
PARAMEDICS IN THE COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO DURING  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

I. PURPOSE

- A. To establish policy that will permit on duty, out-of-county paramedics to practice paramedic-level skills, in the County of San Luis Obispo (SLO) under certain circumstances.

II. SCOPE

- A. This policy applies to any out-of-county paramedic, licensed by the state of California and accredited by a county other than the County of SLO or licensed by another state, who is part of an emergency operation provided under circumstances of urgent and extraordinary need for public safety and emergency medical services (EMS).

III. DEFINITIONS

- Controlled substance: Any substance listed as a Schedule I through IV drug in the Controlled Substance Act [i.e. Morphine Sulfate, or Midazolam].

IV. POLICY

- A. Out-of-county paramedics who are on-duty with an advanced life support (ALS) provider may perform paramedic-level skills within the County of SLO during emergency operations in compliance with the California paramedic scope of practice and the scope of practice approved by their state or county of origin until transfer of that patient to a County of SLO accredited paramedic.
- B. Paramedics operating within the County of SLO during emergency operations as a fire-line paramedic (FEMP) shall be subject to the provisions of California OES/FIRESC-OPE Position Manual ICS 223-11, and shall comply with ICS 223-11 as applicable to their assignment.
- C. It is the intent of this policy to permit the provision of ALS care during in-county mutual aid emergency operations, or to facilitate continuity of care during the transport of patients through the County of SLO. It does not replace existing EMS or circumvent the established response of EMS in the County of SLO.
- D. Out-of-county paramedics, within the County of SLO will meet these requirements:
1. Shall be currently licensed by the state of California and accredited by a local EMS Agency within California, or be licensed by another state.
  2. Must have access to the ALS equipment required by his or her state, county of origin, or ICS 223-11 if applicable.

3. Must not exceed the California paramedic scope of practice, or the medical control policies from his or her state, or county of origin.
4. Must be authorized by his or her accrediting state or local EMS Agency to perform paramedic-level skills during out-of-county mutual aid responses or patient transfers.
5. Any paramedic operating under this policy must be on-duty with an approved ALS provider during any provision of paramedic-level care.

## V. PROCEDURE

- A. All ALS equipment and supplies are to remain under the direct control of a paramedic at all times. If an out-of-county paramedic is on an extended assignment (i.e. special event, fire line) and is relieved of duty and another paramedic does not assume control of the ALS equipment and supplies, all such equipment and supplies must be secured in such a manner as to prevent access by non-paramedic personnel. Controlled substance will be secure at all times per paramedic's home county policies.
- B. The out-of-county paramedic shall remain with the patient until transfer of care to a County of SLO accredited paramedic. Upon arrival of a County of SLO accredited paramedic, an appropriate transfer of care shall be made and responsibility shall be transferred to the County of SLO paramedic.
- C. The out-of-county paramedic shall complete their local EMS field run report, provide a copy to the accepting County of SLO paramedic and make available to the EMS Agency upon request.
- D. If no County of SLO paramedic transport unit is available, and the out-of-county paramedic must transport the patient, they must follow these procedures:
  1. If operating as a transport component of a Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI), the out-of-county paramedic shall follow the directions of the Incident Commander (IC) or other designated ICS official, as appropriate.
  2. If not operating as a transport component of an MCI, the out-of-county paramedic shall coordinate with the IC and local EMS dispatch center for transport and destination instructions.
  3. The out-of-county paramedic shall make an appropriate transfer of care to emergency department (ED) staff, and shall provide written documentation of the results of the patient assessment and all treatment rendered.
  4. The out-of-county paramedic shall complete his or her local EMS field run report. A copy must be available to the EMS Agency upon request.
- E. When out-of-county paramedics enter the County of SLO as part of a fire-line paramedic or other mutual aid assignment, the EMS Agency shall be notified as follows:
  1. The ordering point, dispatch center, Logistics Section Chief or Medical Unit Leader shall notify the EMS Agency Medical Director or other designated EMS

Agency staff member in a timely manner when out-of-county paramedics are assigned to function as a paramedic in strike teams or other mutual aid response entities assigned and present in the County of SLO.

2. A timely notification is deemed to be within 12 hours from the ordering point, dispatch center, Logistics Section Chief or Medical Unit Leader being made aware of the out-of-county paramedics entering the county.
  3. This notification is not required when such strike teams/mutual aid response entities are in transit through the county.
- F. The EMS Agency shall notify receiving hospitals of significant differences in out-of-county paramedic scope of practice from the County of SLO scope of practice, including protocols, procedures, medications, equipment or devices.
- G. In the case of paramedics licensed in states other than California, the EMS Agency Medical Director may prohibit or limit the use of the scope of practice permitted to that paramedic in his or her state of licensure. Timely notification by the EMS Agency that permission to perform certain or all ALS skills are prohibited will be made to the appropriate command entity.

#### VI. AUTHORITY

- California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Section 100165
- Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.204 and 1797.206