



Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency

A Division of Fresno County
Department of Public Health

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

FILE #: F/K/M/T # 07-2024

TO: All Fresno/Kings/Madera/Tulare EMS Providers, Hospitals, First Responder Agencies, and Interested Parties

FROM: Miranda Lewis, M.D., EMS Medical Director
Daniel J. Lynch, EMS Director

DATE: March 8, 2024

SUBJECT: BLS Ambulance Responses to Priority Responses

Effective immediately, the following changes in EMS policy 405 shall be implemented:

Ambulance providers throughout the region are increasing the use of basic life support (BLS) ambulances. The EMS Agency supports the use of BLS ambulances for incidents that do not require a paramedic-level response. This has been beneficial to maintaining appropriate paramedic ambulance levels.

The use of BLS ambulances also presents a situation where a BLS ambulance may be the only available ambulance in a jurisdiction and could potentially be dispatched on a priority 1 or priority 2 response. While it is clear that the BLS ambulance is the closest ambulance to the incident and would be appropriately dispatched, a BLS response does not meet the minimum standard of care required by EMS policy and procedure. An advanced life support (ALS) ambulance is intended to continue to be dispatched to these incidents.

Effective immediately, the EMS dispatch centers shall implement the following response procedure region-wide, which is added to EMS Policy 405, Section III, A. 12:

In the event that a BLS ambulance is dispatched as the closest available ambulance to a priority 1 or priority 2 incident, the dispatch center shall simultaneously co-respond the closest ALS (paramedic) ambulance to the incident. Once the BLS ambulance arrives on the scene and performs an appropriate assessment of the patient and determines whether ALS is needed, it may cancel the ALS ambulance or continue its response.

If you have any questions, please contact Matt Myers, EMS Coordinator, at (559) 600-7425.

DJL:jy