

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 410
Subject	Request for Search and Rescue Operations	Page 1 of 1
References		Effective 11/02/86

I. POLICY

- A. The appropriate County Sheriff's Department is responsible for coordinating and assessing the need for search and rescue response.
- B. The designated ambulance dispatch center shall allocate available resources based upon the request of the appropriate County Sheriff's Department.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. The appropriate County Sheriff's Department will function as the central coordinating point for information regarding search and rescue operations, requests for wilderness response, and information received on individuals possibly lost in remote/wilderness areas. The appropriate County Sheriff's Department will triage the information and determine the need for search and rescue operations or wilderness response, including the need and level of response of Emergency Medical Services resources.

If any EMS response is needed, the appropriate County Sheriff's Department will notify the ambulance dispatch center. The request to the ambulance dispatch center will specify the level and type of response needed. These include the following:

- 1. Ground Ambulance Response
 - 2. Air Ambulance Response
 - 3. Air and Ground Ambulance Response
 - 4. Paramedic Rescue Team Response
- B. The EMS Dispatcher should clarify the type of response that is necessary and the specific level of response which is necessary. This would include confirmation of whether a ground ambulance unit will be sent.
- C. If the requested response includes response of an air ambulance or a rescue helicopter, the EMS Dispatcher will follow appropriate policies relating to helicopter dispatch. In any case where a helicopter unit will respond into a remote/wilderness area, information should be requested from the appropriate County Sheriff's Department on coordinating frequencies for the helicopter to communicate with ground units. This will allow for effective coordination of landing and scene operations.

Approved By EMS Division Manager	Daniel J. Lynch (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision
EMS Medical Director	Jim Andrews, M.D. (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	12/07/2006