

Emergency Medical Systems

Legislative Briefing

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Developed by:

Emergency Medical Systems

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Nevada State Health Division

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Office of Emergency Medical Systems

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EMS History

The Emergency Medical Systems program, as authorized in NRS 450B inclusive, establishes and enforces standards for the provision of quality, out of hospital emergency medical care, the operation of ambulance services, certification of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, licensure of attendants and the delivery of trauma care. The program also supports EMS agencies for Nevada's rural counties and Washoe County by providing technical assistance, consultation and training to EMS managers and personnel as well as public officials. A registry of all persons certified in Nevada, including Clark County, is maintained as part of the Emergency Medical Systems program activities. Additionally, this program is responsible for implementation, monitoring, and maintaining a database for Nevada's out of hospital emergency care and a statewide EMS radio network. The Nevada Office of Emergency Medical Systems (OEMS) is housed within the Nevada State Health Division, Bureau of Health Statistics, Planning, Epidemiology and Response (HSPER) located in Carson City, Nevada.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Nevada Office of Emergency Medical Systems is to promote and support a system that will provide prompt, efficient and appropriate emergency medical care, ambulance transportation, and trauma care to the people of Nevada and those visiting the state.

Program Staffing

The State of Nevada EMS office has seven full time employee (FTE) positions. These positions are comprised of: an Emergency Medical Representative 3, who manages the team; four Emergency Medical Representatives, dedicated to one of four regions dividing the state; one Emergency Medical Representative 2, providing training and grant implementation of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) grant which is only available to state governments; and one Administrative Assistant 3, running the day to day activities of the office.

Statutory Authority

NRS 450B.015 Legislative Declaration.

The Legislature hereby declares that prompt and efficient emergency medical care and transportation is necessary for the health and safety of the people of Nevada, and that minimum standard for such care and all persons providing it must be established.

(Added to NRS by 1981, 1599; A 1993, 2828)

County Services Provided

The State of Nevada Office of Emergency Medical Systems provides the following:

1. State-wide leadership through the establishment and enforcement of regulations and policies;
2. Financial support from grant funds and through training supported by fee revenue;
3. Testing (both didactic and practical);
4. Transportation guidelines and regulations;
5. Communications;
6. Public information, education, and prevention;
7. Medical direction review and guidance;
8. Large scale event preparedness and response support located throughout the state;
9. State triage plan;
10. Project Heartbeat support;
11. Implements, monitors and maintains a statewide EMS database;
12. Mutual Aid support;
13. Participation and support in "SafeKids" and "Not Even For a Moment" Programs;
14. Issues pre-hospital Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) identification;
15. Permitted service and ambulance inspections for regulatory compliance conducted annually;
16. Issues Operating Permits for new services and new resources;
17. Licenses and certifies EMS personnel;
18. Approves, conducts and provides oversight of all program training used for certification and continuing education for EMS personnel and Emergency Management Dispatchers;
19. Administrative assistance to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee;
20. And conducts EMS related complaint investigations.

The EMS System Today

Within the Nevada Emergency Medical System, there are a total of 79 licensed and designated provider agencies and/or training centers serving every area of the state except Clark County. The licensure level of a pre-hospital EMS service provided by an ambulance is determined by local officials of the community being served after approval of the medical protocols submitted to the Office of Emergency Medical Systems.

Nevada's low population density in the rural counties has created more frontier locations than any other state in the country. Whether in rural Nevada or in the urban Washoe County area, EMS providers meet the same training, certification, and recertification standards and stand ready to care for victims of injury or illness. Licensed ambulance providers throughout the state

are required to have the same personnel, equipment, and operational standards. Through aid agreements, both automatic and mutual, local disaster plans, and standing orders, these licensed ambulance providers are in a constant state of readiness to serve the public. They are becoming more skilled and prepared to deal with weapons of mass destruction and mass casualties from natural and human caused disasters. The certified personnel are part-time paid or full-time paid employees and in a large majority of rural areas, they are volunteers.

There are five levels of certification for EMS personnel including Emergency Medical Dispatch, First Responder (FR), EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and Paramedic. Each level has a specific scope of practice with required hours of training. The following are currently certified EMS personnel as of March 1, 2011:

First Responder – 464
EMT-Basic – 1,501
EMT-Intermediate – 1,073
Paramedic – 495
Emergency Medical Dispatchers – 6
Instructors– 312

The EMS agencies are categorized as licensed ground transport, non-transport and air ambulance agencies, and/or training centers. All provide quick response with units providing various levels of pre-hospital care and/or training to be certified. Each licensed ambulance agency is required to have a certified medical director who is responsible for all medical aspects of their patient care. This includes the development and approval of treatment protocols, ongoing training of medical personnel, and quality assurance and performance improvement programs. The medical director must be registered and listed with the Nevada State Office of Emergency Medical Systems.