

EMS Administration**Date: 03/01/2025****Advanced Life Support First Responder Unit Requirements****Policy #16##****I. Purpose:**

To offer a mechanism for designated paramedic service agencies in Imperial County to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) assessment and initial treatment to patients by paramedics prior to arrival of a transporting unit.

II. Authority:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.204, 1797.218, and 1797.220.

III. Definitions:

ALS First Responder Unit: A non-transporting emergency response vehicle utilized by a designated paramedic service provider which is staffed by at least one paramedic and one Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and which complies with the operational criteria outlined in this policy.

ALS Transporting Unit: An emergency response vehicle utilized for patient transport which is staffed with at least one paramedic and one EMT, and which complies with the operational criteria outlined in County of Imperial , Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Policy #1630.

Basic Life Support (BLS) Transporting Unit: A response vehicle utilized for emergent or non-emergent patient transport which is staffed with two EMTs, and which complies with the operational criteria outlined in Imperial County EMS Policy #1620.

IV. Policy:

To be eligible to provide ALS first responder service in Imperial County, a company or agency shall:

- A. Staff each ALS first responder unit responding to calls for service with a minimum of one (1) currently licensed paramedic, and one (1) currently certified Emergency Medical Technician or Advanced Emergency Medical Technician.
- B. ALS first responder units shall be equipped with standardized inventory as specified in EMS Policy #4005.
- C. Ensure all units are capable of communicating with the Imperial County Sheriff's Office, EMS providers at the scene, El Centro Regional Medical Center, Pioneers Memorial Hospital, all county fire agencies, all federal agencies in the county, all dispatch centers, and all law enforcement agencies. These frequencies shall be continuously monitored.
- D. Be in compliance with the County of Imperial Emergency Medical Services Agency policies and procedures.

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- E. Establish internal quality assurance mechanisms based on policies/procedures as cited by the Imperial County EMS Agency, including participation in Countywide monitoring activities (see Quality Assurance and Improvement Policy).
- F. Submit completed patient care reports in compliance with Imperial County EMS Incident Reports Policy.
- G. Approved service provider agencies shall have a current ALS service provider agreement with the Imperial County EMS Agency.
- H. The closest, most appropriate, available ALS transporting unit shall be dispatched simultaneously with the ALS first responder unit if the response meets established criteria for dispatch of an ALS transporting unit.
- I. If ALS care is initiated and an ALS transporting unit remains unavailable, the ALS first responder unit paramedic shall accompany the patient to the hospital in a BLS transporting unit.

V. Procedures:**A. Application/Approval Process**

Application for use of ALS first responder unit(s) shall be submitted in writing to the Imperial County EMS Medical Director and shall include:

- 1. Identification, location, and average response times of the ALS transporting unit assigned to the geographical area.
- 2. Identification, location, and average response times of the proposed ALS first responder unit(s).
- 3. Description of the proposed ALS first responder unit staffing, including level(s) of training.
- 4. A statement indicating what optional equipment (if any) will be included in the inventory of the ALS first responder unit.

B. Operational Requirements

When the ALS first responder unit arrives on scene prior to the ALS transporting unit, the ALS first responder paramedic shall:

- 1. Assess and treat the patient.
- 2. If the ALS first responder paramedic does not accompany the patient to the hospital, transfer of care and information shall occur at the earliest, most appropriate time to facilitate continuity of care and prevent and delay in care.

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3. ALS first responder paramedics shall submit completed prehospital patient records in accordance with Imperial County EMS Policy

APPROVED:

~~SIGNATURE ON FILE~~ ~~03/01/2025~~

Katherine Staats, MD, FACEP

EMS Medical Director