

EMS Administration**Date: 03/20/2025****Basic Life Support First Responder Units****Policy #16##****I. Purpose:**

To establish a mechanism for designated emergency medical service (EMS) agencies in Imperial County to provide Basic Life Support (BLS) assessment and initial treatment to patients by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) prior to the arrival of a transporting unit.

II. Authority:

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

III. Definitions:

BLS First Responder Unit: A non-transporting emergency response vehicle utilized by a designated BLS service provider, which is staffed by at least two EMTs and complies with the operational criteria outlined in this policy.

BLS Transporting Unit: A response vehicle utilized for emergent or non-emergent patient transport, staffed with at least two EMTs, and complying with the operational criteria outlined in Imperial County EMS Policy #1620.

ALS Transporting Unit: An emergency response vehicle utilized for patient transport, staffed with at least one paramedic and one EMT, and complying with the operational criteria outlined in Imperial County EMS Policy #1630.

IV. Policy:

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

- A. Staff each BLS first responder unit responding to calls for service with a minimum of two (2) Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) currently certified in the State of California and Imperial County.
- B. BLS 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 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 accordance with Imperial County EMS Patient Care Record Policy.
- G. Approved service provider agencies shall have a current BLS service provider agreement with the Imperial County EMS Agency.
- H. The closest, most appropriate, available ALS transporting unit shall be dispatched simultaneously with the BLS first responder unit if the response meets established criteria for dispatch of an ALS transporting unit.
- I. If an ALS transporting unit remains unavailable, and patient condition requires ALS care, the BLS first responder unit shall provide supportive care and facilitate transport via the closest available BLS or ALS transporting unit per EMS policy.

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

Application for use of BLS 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 BLS transporting unit assigned to the geographical area.
2. Identification, location, and average response times of the proposed BLS first responder unit(s).
3. Description of the proposed BLS 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 BLS first responder unit.

B. Operational Requirements

When the BLS first responder unit arrives on scene prior to a BLS or ALS transporting unit, the BLS first responder EMTs shall:

1. Assess and treat the patient within the EMT scope of practice.
2. If ALS intervention is required, request the closest ALS unit and provide supportive care until their arrival.

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3. Transfer care and patient information at the earliest, most appropriate time to facilitate continuity of care and prevent delays in treatment.
4. 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