

ADMINISTRATION

**Ambulance Personal Protective Equipment**

**POLICY #4250**

**PURPOSE:**

All ambulance services, both emergency and non-emergency, must be integrated into the disaster medical response system. Through acceptance of the ambulance personal protective equipment (PPE), the ambulance providers agree, through a contract or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Imperial County EMS Agency, to participate in state and local disaster response or a declared emergency. In responding to any incident, it is the responsibility of all personnel to check in with the Incident Commander to determine appropriate levels of PPE.

Adherence to the PPE policy will ensure safety, readiness, and the ability to meet the requirements of an "all hazards" disaster response. This is consistent with the premise that ambulance personnel should not respond to an incident requiring PPE beyond their level of provision and training without adhering to published standards.

The Imperial County EMS Agency has, through a grant from the California EMS Authority, procured Ambulance PPE in accordance with EMSA guidelines #216. All usage of this PPE is subject to the following terms and conditions.

**POLICY:**

Every person working on an ambulance (public or private, emergency or non-emergency, ALS or BLS) shall have available PPE consistent with this policy.

**AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code 1797.220, 1798, and EMSA Guidelines #216, SB 409 (Chapter 26, Statutes of 2006).

**PROCEDURE:**

1. **Availability and Specifications:** The following equipment shall be available on every ambulance within the jurisdiction for all agencies including public and private, and emergency and non-emergency services.

Minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)  
EMSA Guidelines #216 (revised)

REQUIRED ITEM	SPECIFICATIONS
Head	
Rescue Helmet (Work Helmet)	NFPA 1951, Blue Color
Eye Protection, Work goggles	NFPA 1999, EMS Standards
Eye Protection, glasses	NFPA 1999, EMS Standards
Body	

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Jacket, full length - EMS, with reflective stripes	NFPA 1999, EMS Standards
Garment (single use)	NFPA 1999, EMS Standards "White Tyvek"
Hands	
Gloves - Work(Multiple use, Leather)	NFPA 1999, Physical protection
Feet	
Footwear, Personal (Multi-use, Safety)	NFPA 1999 EMS Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Height: min. 4"</li> <li>• Cut, puncture, &amp; abrasion resistant</li> <li>• Toe safety</li> <li>• Barrier protection</li> </ul>
Footwear covers, single use	NFPA 1999 OSHA: chemical resistant
Respiratory	
N-100 Mask, or N-95 Mask	
APR, Full-Face Respiratory Protection Mask (N95), or Level "C" or Escape Hood (NIOSH)	Fit-Testing Program Required
Routine Equipment	
Personal communication device	Radio, on appropriate frequency

\* NFPA - National Fire Protection Administration Standards (Standard Number)

2. Maintenance: All equipment shall be maintained in a ready-to-use state and shall be used in accordance with policy. Protective equipment, including personal protective equipment for eyes, face, head, and extremities, protective clothing, respiratory devices, and protective shields and barriers, shall be provided, used, and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition.
3. Training: Prior to usage all personnel who may be required to utilize PPE shall receive necessary training in the usage of equipment in accordance with OSHA requirements [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132(f)]. The employer shall provide training to each employee who is required by this section to use PPE. Each such employee shall be trained to know at least the following:
  - a. When PPE is necessary; what PPE is necessary; how to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE; the limitations of the PPE; and the proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of the PPE [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 (f)(1)(i - v)].
  - b. Each affected employee shall demonstrate an understanding of the training specified in [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 (f)(1)] of this section, and the ability to use PPE properly, before being allowed to perform work requiring the use of PPE [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 (f)(2)].

- c. When the employer has reason to believe that any affected employee who has already been trained does not have the understanding and skill required by [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 (f)(2)] of this section, the employer shall retrain each such employee. Circumstances where retraining is required include, but are not limited to, situations where changes in the workplace render previous training obsolete; changes in the types of PPE to be used render previous training obsolete; or inadequacies in an affected employee's knowledge or use of assigned PPE indicate that the employee has not retained the requisite understanding or skill [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 (f)(3)].
  - d. The employer shall verify that each affected employee has received and understood the required training through a written certification that contains the name of each employee trained, the date(s) of training, and that identifies the subject of the certification.
  - e. The employer shall ensure proper fit testing for any respiratory protection in accordance with OSHA requirements (ref. 29 CFR 1910.134). In any workplace where respirators are necessary to protect the health of the employee or whenever respirators are required by the employer, the employer shall establish and implement a written respiratory protection program with worksite-specific procedures. The program shall be updated as necessary to reflect those changes in workplace conditions that affect respirator use.
4. Procedures Required: The employer shall include in the program the following provisions of this section, as applicable:
- Procedures for selecting respirators for use in the workplace;
  - Medical evaluations of employees required to use respirators;
  - Fit testing procedures for tight-fitting respirators;
  - Procedures for proper use of respirators in routine and reasonably foreseeable emergency situations;
  - Procedures and schedules for cleaning, disinfecting, storing, inspecting, repairing, discarding, and otherwise maintaining respirators;
  - Procedures to ensure adequate air quality, quantity, and flow of breathing air for atmosphere-supplying respirators;
  - Training of employees in the respiratory hazards to which they are potentially exposed during routine and emergency situations;
  - Training of employees in the proper use of respirators, including putting on and removing them, any limitations on their use, and their maintenance.
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**APPROVAL**



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