PUBLIC SAFETY GROUND AMBULANCE INSPECTION

I. AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code 1797.220. The local EMS agency, using state minimum standards, shall establish policies and procedures approved by the medical director of the local EMS agency to assure medical control of the EMS system. The policies and procedures approved by the medical director may require basic life support emergency medical transportation services to meet any medical control requirements including dispatch, patient destination policies, patient care guidelines, and quality assurance requirements.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy is intended to establish a process which will assure that the design, equipping and inspection of public safety agency operated ambulances meet the following criteria:

III. CRITERIA:

A. Ambulance Design:

1. The patient compartment of an ambulance shall, at a minimum, be of sufficient size and design to comply with those standards in KKK-A-1822A "Ambulance Federal Specifications.

2. Each ambulance shall have:

a. A rear loading doorway vertical clearance of not less than 46 inches.

b. Gaskets affixed to the perimeters of all doors and windows to prevent carbon monoxide gas leaks into the vehicle.

c. The word "ambulance" affixed to the front and/or both sides of the vehicle. The lettering shall be a minimum of 4 to 6 inches in height.

B. Ambulance Equipment:

1. All ambulance equipment shall be maintained in a clean condition and in good working order at all times.

2. Required non-medical equipment:

a. Seat belts for all passengers in the patient compartment.

b. Operational heating and air conditioning units in the patient compartment.

C. Required medical equipment and supplies:

1. Medical equipment and supplies used to treat a patient shall be stored in the patient compartment and shall be readily accessible; such equipment shall include:

ITALICIZED TEXT IDENTIFIES QUOTATION FROM AN AUTHORITY OUTSIDE THE OCEMS.

2. Oxygen delivery supplies:

   a. One (1) "H", "M", or equivalent cylinder for operation with a wall mount oxygen outlet.

   b. Two (2) portable "E" cylinders: One (1) at full pressure at all times and one (1) at not less than 1000 psi; or four (4) portable "D" cylinders: Two (2) at full pressure at all times and two (2) at not less than 1000 psi.

3. Resuscitation equipment

   a. Clear plastic oxygen administration masks: Six (6) adult size; six (6) child size; and six (6) infant size.

   b. Clear plastic nasal cannulas: Four (4) adult size and two (2) child size.

   c. One (1) oxygen tank wrench.

4. Suction equipment:

   a. One (1) portable suction device capable of providing, at a minimum, an airflow of over 30 liters per minute at the end of a delivery tube and a vacuum of over 300 mmHg (millimeters of Mercury) when the tube is clamped.

   b. One (1) installed suction device capable of providing, at a minimum, an airflow of over 30 liters per minute at the end of a delivery tube and a vacuum of over 300 mmHg when the tube is clamped.

   c. Suction catheters: Two (2) 10 French with Venturi valve; two (2) 14 French with Venturi valve; two (2) 18 French with Venturi valve and two (2) rigid pharyngeal suction tips

5. Cervical collars, rigid type (Stiffneck, Philadelphia, or equivalent):

   One (1) large, one (1) medium, one (1) small, and one (1) pediatric size collar; or four (4) multi-size adjustable rigid cervical collars.

6. Miscellaneous supplies:

   a. One (1) disposable, single-use, humidifier.
   b. Four (4) cold packs.
   c. Two (2) heat packs.
   d. Four (4) pair disposable gloves.
   e. Four (4) surgical masks.
   f. Four (4) pair protective eye goggles.
   g. Two (2) petroleum treated gauze dressings.
   h. Two (2) dozen 4 x 4 inch sterile gauze sponges.

7. Drug/medication box in locked compartment if applicable.

D. Annual vehicle Inspections:

1. The OCEMS shall inspect each ambulance on an annual basis.

2. The OCEMS may inspect an ambulance at its discretion and convenience as part of the process provided such that the inspection does not interfere with the provision of ambulance service to a patient.

3. The OCEMS shall inspect an ambulance for:

   a. Required medical equipment,
   b. Operational status of all medical equipment, and
   c. Cleanliness of ambulance, equipment, and supplies.

4. All ambulance inspections shall be documented on an OCEMS form (see attachment).

5. The OCEMS shall review all noted items to be corrected with the public safety ambulance service operator's representative at time of inspection.

6. The OCEMS shall provide a copy of the inspection documentation to the public safety ambulance service operator at the time of inspection.

E. Daily Ambulance Inspections:

1. The assigned driver shall at the beginning of each shift:

   a. Document, in writing, on a shift inspection sheet, that all vehicle equipment and installed medical equipment is either in good working order or not in working order.

   b. If the ambulance or equipment is perceived to not be in working order or unsafe:

      (1) Document the malfunction and/or unsafe condition, and
      (2) Report the malfunction and/or unsafe condition to supervisory staff.

2. The attendant at the beginning of each shift shall document, in writing, that all required medical supplies and portable medical equipment are in good working order and are found in at least the minimum required quantities.

3. Both the driver and attendant shall sign and date each shift inspection sheet and submit the shift inspection sheet to their immediate supervisor or as company policy dictates for follow through on deficiencies noted.

4. The shift inspection sheets shall be retained by the public safety ambulance operator for a minimum of 30 days.

F. Supervisor responsibility:

It is the responsibility of supervisory staff to take appropriate action to assure repair and/or replacement of the ambulance and/or equipment prior to permitting its use.