

POLICY: 254.00
TITLE: Paramedic Accreditation

EFFECTIVE: 6/15/2024
REVIEW: 6/2028
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

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PARAMEDIC ACCREDITATION

I. AUTHORITY

In accordance with Section 100165 of the California Code of Regulations, the local EMS agency may accredit a California licensed paramedic to practice in its jurisdiction.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. "Accreditation" means authorization to practice paramedic skills in those counties in the region where orientation of the local EMS system has been completed.

B. "Agency" means the Mountain Counties Emergency Medical Services Agency.

C. "Mountain Counties EMS System" means the geographic areas within the member counties of the EMS Agency.

D. "Advanced Life Support Provider" means a person who is educated and trained in all elements of prehospital advanced life support, who had passed all required test, who has been licensed by the State of California as a Paramedic associated with any Agency contractually bound to provide services.

III. PURPOSE

This policy is to define the process for providing Paramedic accreditation program services that are in full compliance with all state and local laws, rules, and regulations. Due to the rural nature of MCEMSA, this policy provides a mechanism whereby individuals may acquire Paramedic accreditation through the option of high-fidelity manikin simulation **and/or** under the direction of a Field Evaluator to satisfy the pre-accreditation field evaluation requirement.

IV. POLICY

A. To be eligible for Initial Paramedic pre-accreditation for 30 days in the Mountain Counties EMS Agency an applicant shall:

1. Provide the Agency with written proof of employment with a designated ALS provider within Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, or Mariposa County.
2. Possess a valid/current State of California Emergency Medical Services Paramedic License.
3. Apply to the Agency for accreditation using the Mountain Counties EMS Paramedic Accreditation Application.
4. Complete a statement stating that the applicant for accreditation is not

precluded from accreditation to practice as a Paramedic for reasons defines in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.

5. Provide a valid copy of a current U.S. state issued driver's license or photo I.D. card.
 6. Complete an orientation of the Mountain Counties EMS system as delivered in person by the Agency, which shall not exceed eight (8) classroom hours, except when additional hours needed to successfully complete training in any local optional scope of practice for which the Paramedic has not been trained and tested.
 7. Pass a **CLOSED** book written examination with an 80% or better score on the Agency ALS Treatment Protocols, Policies and Procedures exam **prior** to the start of thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period.
 - a. Applicants will be allowed to retest, taking a closed book exam, until they receive a minimum score of 80%.
 - b. Applicants may not retest on the same day as the initial exam and shall make arrangements with the Agency to schedule a date and time to retest.
 8. Complete OES Region IV MCI training online and obtain completion certificates for all four (4) modules.
 9. Submit Agency approved accreditation fee.
- B. A candidate shall be granted a thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period which begins upon of requirements listed above. At the end of thirty (30) days, if the individual has not successfully completed the Agency orientation process, or has not met any other pre-accreditation requirements, the applicant will no longer be able to function as a Paramedic in the Mountain-Valley EMS System. Applicants may reapply for accreditation by paying another initial accreditation fee.
- C. Applicants may apply for a thirty (30)-day extension by submitting the request in writing to the Agency prior to the expiration of the initial thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period. If the pre-accreditation requirements have not been met within this thirty-day extension, an additional thirty (30) day extension may be requested by submitting the request in writing to the Agency and by paying another initial accreditation fee.
- D. Once accredited by the Agency, the Paramedic shall be considered accredited if the following conditions are met:
1. Maintain licensure as a Paramedic, by the State of California.
 2. Successfully complete any requirements imposed by the Agency Medical Director for an Agency approved Expanded Scope of Practice Class, and Policy Update Class.
 3. Meet any requirements of the System-wide CQI program
 4. Provided verification of compliance with Agency Policy 853.00- Prehospital Training Standards.
- E. An accredited paramedic must notify the Agency within five (5) business days of any change in address, telephone, or e-mail contact information.
- F. All accredited paramedics must submit, every two years, an information update sheet, a new photograph (taken by the Agency), and a copy of a newly issued State paramedic license to maintain accreditation.
- G. The Mountain Counties EMS Advanced Life Support Provider shall notify the agency

within two (2) business days of the separation from employment of an accredited Paramedic. If the Paramedic surrenders their local accreditation, the card shall be returned to the Agency.

- H. If the separated Paramedic does not surrender their local accreditation card to the former employer, they shall surrender the card to the Agency within two (2) business days of separation from employment.
- I. Any Paramedic that is accredited by the Agency, but not employed by an approved MCEMSA Advanced Life Support Provider at the time of adoption of this policy shall surrender card to the Agency within one week of notification to do so.

V. PROCEDURE

- A. Prior to the thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period the candidate must complete the following:
 - 1. Agency Paramedic Accreditation Application.
 - 2. Photocopy of current State of California Paramedic License.
 - 3. Photocopy of State of California Driver's License or Identification Card.
 - 4. Proof of Completion of OES Region IV Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) Field Operations modules.
 - 5. Completion of Agency orientation of the local EMS system.
 - 6. Pass a CLOSED book written examination with an 80% or better score on the Agency ALS Treatment Protocols, Policies and Procedures. Candidate cannot retest on the same day and must reschedule a new test date with Agency staff.
 - 7. Successfully complete and show competency on five (5) scenario-based patient contacts (up to a max of ten (10)). Complete a "Documentation of Patient Contact interim report" for each of the scenario-based patient contacts.
 - a. If the candidate fails anyone of the five (5) ALS patient contact scenarios, he/she may retest that scenario one (1) time. If the candidate fails that scenario the second time, the applicant shall schedule a time to retest.
- B. The following pre-accreditation process shall be completed, and all documents submitted within the thirty (30) day pre-accreditation period in the following order:
 - 1. The candidate shall demonstrate proof of present employment or a written commitment for employment by an Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, or Mariposa County designated ALS provider agency.
 - 2. The candidate for initial accreditation shall be required to successfully complete a pre-accreditation field evaluation and/or ALS patient contact via simulation to consist of up to ten (10) ALS responses. **This requirement may be waived or modified at the discretion of the Agency Medical Director. This field evaluation must be continuously supervised at all times by a paramedic, approved by MCEMSA Medical Director or his/her designee, currently accredited with the Agency and has a minimum of three years' experience working as a paramedic on an Emergency 9-1-1 System ambulance within the Region.**
 - a. Paramedics who have successfully completed their entire field internship with an ambulance provider within the MCEMSA Region within the last six months will not be required to complete the Pre-Accreditation Field Evaluation.

- b. **If a candidate chooses NOT to be evaluated on the high-fidelity manikin scenarios** and instead will be the third (3) person on a ground ambulance with an Agency-approved field evaluator, the candidate may function as a Paramedic during this pre-accreditation period as follows:
 - 1) Scope of practice limited to the State of California basic scope of practice as a second Paramedic under the direction of an approved Field Evaluator until he/she is accredited.
 - 2) May only perform the local optional scope of practice while in the presence of an Agency-approved field evaluator, who is ultimately responsible for patient care.
- C. Upon successful completion of the pre-accreditation requirements, an accreditation card will be issued.
- D. The Medical Director of the local EMS Agency may suspend or revoke accreditation if the Paramedic does not maintain current licensure or meet local accreditation requirements.
- E. If accreditation is suspended, or revoked, the affected Paramedic shall be entitled to appeal the decision. The process for appeal is outlined in Agency Policy #161.00, Appeals Process.
- F. Disciplinary proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 4, Section 100165 (i) of the California Code of Regulations.
 1. If the certificate holder is a firefighter who is alleged to have engaged in violation or omissions while on duty, investigation shall be conducted in accordance with the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act (California Government Code Section 3250 et. Seq.)
 2. If the certificate holder is a public safety officer who is alleged to have engaged in violation or omissions while on duty, investigation shall be conducted in accordance with the Public Safety Officers Procedural Bill of Rights Act (California Government Code Section 3300 et. Seq.)