

POLICY: 210.00  
TITLE: USFS EMS Reciprocity

EFFECTIVE: DRAFT  
REVIEW: DRAFT  
SUPERCEDES:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES ON FILE IN EMS OFFICE

PAGE: 1 of 2

---

---

## USFS EMS RECIPROCIITY

### I. AUTHORITY

California Code of Regulations, Title 22. Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797, 1797.200-204, 1797.220 and 1797.224. California Emergency Services Act (Government Code Section 8550-8669) which establishes the statewide mutual aid system for emergency response.

### II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **California Credentialed EMS Personnel** means individuals holding valid California certification or licensure as an EMT, Advanced EMT (AEMT), or Paramedic.
- B. **Federal EMS Resources** means EMS personnel operating under federal authority, including the United States Forest Service, National Park Service, or other federal emergency response agencies.
- C. **MCEMSA** means Mountain Counties Emergency Medical Services Agency.
- D. **Mutual Aid Incident** means a response requiring EMS resources from outside the MCEMSA operational area due to a disaster, large-scale emergency, or resource shortage.
- E. **Reciprocity** means a temporary authorization allowing EMS personnel credentialed in another state or federal system to provide emergency medical services during mutual aid or disaster response.

### III. PURPOSE:

This policy is implemented under the authority of the MCEMSA EMS Medical Director and consistent with California law governing emergency medical services and disaster response.

### IV. POLICY

- A. MCEMSA may authorize EMS personnel from federal agencies, including the United States Forest Service, and other out of state EMS providers to deliver emergency medical care during disasters or mutual aid incidents when local resources are insufficient.
- B. Authorized personnel shall operate under medical control on the MCEMSA Medical Director or designee and follow MCEMSA protocols while operating within the MCEMSA jurisdiction.

- C. Reciprocity authorization under this policy shall be temporary and limited to the duration of the incident or operational assignment.
  
- V. PROCEDURE
  - A. Verification of Credentials
    - 1. Responding agencies shall provide documentation verifying current EMS credentials, training, and agency affiliation prior to providing patient care when feasible.
  
  - B. Authorization to Practice
    - 1. The EMS Medical Director or designee may grant temporary authorization for EMS personnel to practice within the MCEMSA jurisdiction during the incident.
  
  - C. Scope of Practice
    - 1. Personnel operating under this policy shall follow MCEMSA treatment protocols and operate within the scope authorized by the EMS Medical Director consistent with Title 22 regulations.
  
  - D. Incident Command Integration
    - 1. All responding EMS personnel shall integrate into the established Incident Command System (ICS) structure and follow operational direction from incident command consistent with California mutual aid doctrine.
  
  - E. Termination of Authorization
    - 1. Authorization granted under this policy automatically terminates at the conclusion of the mutual aid assignment, incident demobilization, or at the direction of the EMS Medical Director.