

Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency
EMS System Policies and Procedures

Policy: First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder Certification #211.00

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Medical Director: Kim Freeman

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I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.182, 1797.183, 1797.191, 1797.193 and; 1797.220. Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 1.5 et seq.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Agency" means the Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency.
- B. "First Responder/Emergency Medical Responder" means a person who has successfully completed an Agency approved First Responder (FR)/Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training course and has passed all required written and skills tests, and who has been certified by the Agency Medical Director as a First Responder.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for issuing First Responder certification in the Tuolumne County EMS System.

IV. POLICY

- A. Initial Certification:
 - 1. In order to be eligible for initial First Responder certification in the Tuolumne County EMS System an individual shall:
 - a. Successfully complete an Agency approved Tuolumne County First Responder course
 - b. Pass, by preestablished standards a competency based written and skills certifying examination, approved by the Agency;
 - c. Be currently certified in Professional Rescuer or Healthcare Provider cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by the American Heart Association, Red Cross, National Safety Council or other course approved by the Agency;
 - d. Be currently certified in automatic external defibrillation (AED) by the American Heart Association, Red Cross, National Safety Council or other course approved by the Agency.
 - e. Apply for certification within one year of the date of course completion;

- f. Be eighteen years of age or older;
 - g. Complete an application and affidavit stating that the applicant is not precluded from certification for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code;
 - h. Submit a copy of a State of California Drivers License or State of California Identification Card, US Passport or U.S. Military identification Card for identification purposes;
 - i. Complete a live scan criminal background check by the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
2. The effective date of certification shall be the date the individual satisfactorily completes all certification requirements and has applied for certification. The certification expiration date will be the final day of the final month of the two (2) year period.
- B. Re-certification:
- 1. In order to be eligible for First Responder re-certification in the Tuolumne County EMS System an individual shall:
 - a. Submit proof of successfully completing twelve hours of EMS continuing education from an approved EMS CE provider;
 - b. Submit a completed skills competency verification form.
 - c. Be currently certified in Professional Rescuer or Healthcare Provider cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by the American Heart Association, Red Cross, National Safety Council or other course approved by the Agency;
 - d. Be currently certified in automatic external defibrillation (AED) by the American Heart Association, Red Cross, National Safety Council or other course approved by the Agency;
 - e. Apply for certification within three months of expiration;
 - f. Be eighteen years of age or older;
 - g. Complete a statement stating that the individual applying for certification is not precluded from certification for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code;
 - h. Submit a copy of a State of California Drivers License or State of California Identification Card, US Passport or Military Identification Card for identification purposes;
 - i. If the recertifying First Responder has not previously completed a live scan criminal background check by the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, they will be required to do so.
 - 2. If the re-certification requirements are met within six months prior to the expiration date, the effective date of certification will be the expiration date of the current certification period.
 - 3. If the re-certification requirements are met greater than six months prior to the expiration date, the effective date of certification will be the date the applicant satisfactorily completes all certification requirements and has

applied for certification. The certification expiration date shall be the final day of the final month of the two-year period.

C. Skills competency shall be verified by direct observation of an actual or simulated patient contact. Skills competency shall be verified by an individual currently licensed or certified as an EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, RN, PA or Physician and who shall be designated by the applicant's first response provider or by the Agency. The skills requiring verification of competency are:

1. Patient examination, trauma;
2. Patient examination, medical
3. Airway emergencies;
4. Breathing emergencies;
5. Automated external defibrillation;
6. Circulation emergencies;
7. Neurologic emergencies;
8. Soft tissue injuries;
9. Musculoskeletal injuries;
10. Obstetrical emergencies.

D. Lapses in Certification:

1. Applicants who have allowed their certification to expire beyond six months, but less than twelve months shall be required to complete an additional 6 hours of EMS continuing education .
2. Applicants who have allowed their certification to expire beyond twelve months but less than twenty-four months shall be required to complete an additional twelve hours of EMS continuing education.
3. Applicants who have allowed their certification to expire beyond twenty-four months shall complete all of the requirements for initial certification including the successful completion an Agency approved FR/EMR Course.

E. Abandonment of Application:

An application shall be considered abandoned, if the requirements for certification have not completed and submitted to the EMS Agency within 90 days of the Livescan form or notice of incomplete application has been mailed to the applicant. The EMS Agency may allow for one, thirty (30) day extension of the initial 90-day period, under extreme circumstances. Once an application has been deemed abandoned applicants must reapply, meet the aforementioned requirements and pay any applicable fees prior to issuance of a certification.