

Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency
EMS System Policies and Procedures

Policy: Staffing Level - Response to Emergency Requests #432.00

Creation Date: 7-31-1997

Medical Director: _____

Revision Date: 5-25-2000

EMS Coordinator: _____

Review Date: 7-31-2003

I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220, 1798 and; the California State EMS Systems Guidelines, Section 4.20

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the staffing requirements of ambulances responding to emergency requests.

III. POLICY

- A. Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance shall be dispatched to all medical emergencies within Tuolumne County during normal day-to-day operations. The staffing level of ALS ambulances shall consist of at least one (1) Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic licensed in the State of California and accredited by the Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency and one appropriately certified EMT-I, EMT-II or licensed/accredited EMT-P.
- B. When an ALS ambulance is not immediately available, or during a declared multi-casualty incident, or during a state of emergency, a Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance may be dispatched to a medical emergency, in accordance with the procedures outlined below.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. When a request for an emergency response is received, the County Dispatch Center shall dispatch a Tuolumne County ALS ambulance to the incident.
- B. In the event that no Tuolumne County ALS ambulance is immediately available for an emergency response, the closest appropriate adjacent ALS ambulance provider shall be contacted and requested to respond. If available, a Tuolumne County BLS ambulance may be dispatched, if the BLS ambulance can arrive on scene in less time than the mutual aid ALS ambulance. The BLS ambulance crew shall follow BLS treatment guidelines, contact a county base hospital, advise them of their BLS status and follow base hospital direction. Based upon the patient's condition, transport time to

a receiving hospital or helicopter landing site, and the ETA of the responding ALS ambulance, the base hospital shall direct the BLS ambulance to either:
1) wait on scene for the ALS ambulance; 2) initiate patient transport and rendezvous with the ALS ambulance or air ambulance; or 3) transport the patient to the closest appropriate hospital.