



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES

EMS POLICY	516
Effective:	April 2025
Approval: EMS Director Travis Kusman, MPH	Signed: 
Approval: EMS Medical Director Greg Gilbert, MD	Signed: 

FIRELINE PARAMEDICS

I. PURPOSE

This policy establishes requirements for fireline paramedic responses for agencies when requested through the statewide Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, to respond to and provide Advance Life Support (“ALS”) care on the fireline at wildland fires.

II. AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.204, 1797.220, 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Sections 100094.02; California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System, Mutual Aid Plan, (3-2002).

III. DEFINITIONS

Advanced Life Support (“ALS”): Special services designed to provide definitive prehospital emergency medical care, including, but not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, advanced airway management, intravenous therapy, administration of specified drugs and other medicinal preparations, and other specified techniques and procedures administered by authorized personnel under the direct supervision of a base hospital as part of a local EMS system at the scene of an emergency, during transport to an acute care hospital and while in the emergency department of an acute care hospital until responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other medical staff of that hospital.

Emergency Medical Services Agency (“LEMSA”) [or “Agency”]: The San Mateo County EMS Agency is designated as the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) and is statutorily charged with primary responsibility for administration and medical control of emergency medical services in San Mateo County.

Fireline paramedic: A paramedic who meets all prerequisites established by FIRESCOPE and is authorized by the paramedic’s department to provide ALS treatment on the fireline to ill or injured fire suppression personnel.

IV. POLICY

A. San Mateo County accredited paramedics shall carry the ALS/BLS inventory consistent with the FIRESCOPE FEMP Position Description. The FIRESCOPE Incident Command System Position Manual – Fireline Paramedic, Appendix B contains variations in

medication which are approved by the EMS Agency. The equipment lists are a minimalist version of standard inventory to meet workable/ packable weight limitations (45lbs including wildland safety gear).

- B. Under the authority of State regulations, a paramedic may render ALS care during emergency operations if the following conditions are met:
1. The paramedic is currently licensed by the State of California and is accredited by a County EMS Agency within California.
 2. The paramedic is currently employed with an ALS provider and possesses the requisite wildland fireline skills and equipment.
 3. The paramedic does not exceed the scope of practice or medical control policies from their county of origin. Paramedics operating in the capacity of a fireline paramedic shall follow established LEMSA standing or communication failure protocols.
 4. If an incident occurs within San Mateo County, the fireline paramedic is expected to check in and obtain a briefing from the Logistics Section Chief or the Medical Unit Leader, if established, at the Wildfire Incident.
 5. Documentation of all patient care will be completed using San Mateo County EMS Agency documentation standards by end of shift or operational period. Documentation of patient care must follow San Mateo County standards utilizing electronic health record documentation, if available, or a paper form. All patient care records shall be made available to be reviewed by the provider agency and LEMSA for quality improvement purposes.
 6. Documentation of patient care will be submitted to the incident host agency if the fireline paramedic is working outside of San Mateo County. If the incident is within San Mateo County, patient care records will be submitted to LEMSA. If requested, a legible copy of the patient care record will be forwarded to the fireline paramedic's home EMS Agency.
 7. The fireline paramedic will carry all required inventory in their ALS pack. Inventory will be supplied and maintained by the employing provider agency. Additional items for restock should also be maintained and secured in a vehicle or in the Medical Unit trailer.
 8. Controlled substances shall be under double lock and maintained on the fireline paramedic's person or secured in her/ his vehicle at all times.
 9. Fireline paramedics may carry an inventory of controlled substances (e.g., fentanyl and midazolam) if authorized by the employing agency's Medical Director. The authorizing Medical Director is responsible to ensure full compliance with all federal and state laws relating to purchase, storage, and transportation of controlled substances. Only controlled substances approved for use in the incoming paramedic's county may be carried and their use must be in accordance with that county's EMS Agency patient care protocols.