

Jan 12, 2005

**New requirements for emergency ambulance service vehicles**

by Bradley M. Pinsky, JD/MHA/EMT-D

The Department of Health recently amended section 800.26 effective as of November, 2004.

In order to operate non-ambulance response vehicles, ambulance services must now implement new policies, abide by new requirements, and carry all of the equipment required by the Department of Health, or must obtain approval to not carry such equipment.

Ambulance services that desire to operate response vehicles other than ambulances must abide by the new requirements. Most notably, is the following requirement:

"The governing authority of any ambulance service which, as a part of its response system, utilizes emergency ambulance service vehicles other than an ambulance to bring personnel and equipment to the scene, must have policies in effect for equipment, staffing, individual authorization, dispatch and response criteria, and maintain appropriate insurance coverage."

This was not previously a requirement. Moreover, if the ambulance service does not carry all of the equipment required for an EASV, it must obtain a waiver from the Department of Health. The service must provide an acceptable plan which demonstrates how appropriate staff, equipment and vehicles will respond to a call for emergency medical assistance. Regional councils will now have input on the waiver request, though it is unclear what the effect of their input will be upon the application.

A copy of the new regulation follows. Note that it is not yet updated on the Department of Health's website.

---

Section 800.26 Equipment requirements for emergency ambulance service vehicles other than an ambulance.

The governing authority of any ambulance service which, as a part of its response system, utilizes emergency ambulance service vehicles other than an ambulance to bring personnel and equipment to the scene, must have policies in effect for equipment, staffing, individual authorization, dispatch and response criteria, and maintain appropriate insurance coverage.

(a) A waiver of the equipment requirements for emergency ambulance service vehicles may be granted by the department when the service provides an acceptable plan to the department demonstrating how appropriate staff, equipment and vehicles will response to a call for emergency medical assistance. The affected regional EMS councils will be solicited for comment on the service's waiver request.

(b) Any emergency ambulance service vehicle other than an ambulance shall be equipped and supplied with emergency care equipment consisting of:

- (1) 12 sterile 4 inches x 4 inches gauze pads;
- (2) adhesive tape, three rolls assorted sizes;
- (3) six rolls conforming gauge bandage, assorted sizes;
- (4) two universal dressings, minimum 10 inches x 30 inches;

- (5) six 5 inches x 9 inches (minimum size) sterile dressings or equivalent;
- (6) one pair of bandage shears;
- (7) six triangular bandages;
- (8) sterile normal saline in plastic container ( 1/2 liter minimum) within the manufacturer's expiration date;
- (9) one air occlusive dressing;
- (10) one liquid glucose or equivalent;
- (11) disposable sterile burn sheet;
- (12) sterile obstetric kit;
- (13) blood pressure sphygmomanometers cuff in adult and pediatric sizes and stethoscope;
- (14) three rigid extrication collars capable of limiting movement of the cervical spine. These collars shall include small, medium and large adult sizes; and
- (15) carrying case for essential equipment and supplies.

- (1) portable oxygen with a minimum 350-liter capacity with pressure gauge, regulator and flow meter medical "D" size or larger. The oxygen cylinder must contain a minimum of 1,000 pounds per square inch;
- (2) manually operated self-refilling bag valve mask ventilation devices in pediatric and adult sizes with a system capable of operating with oxygen enrichment and clear adult, and clear pediatric size masks with air cushion;
- (3) four individually wrapped or boxed oropharyngeal airways in a range of sizes fo(c)  
Oxygen and resuscitation equipment consisting of:
  - r pediatric and adult patients;
  - (4) two each: disposable non-rebreather oxygen masks, and disposable nasal cannula individually wrapped;
  - (5) portable suction equipment capable, according to the manufacturer's specifications, of producing a vacuum of over 300 m.m. Hg when the suction tube is clamped and including two plastic large bore rigid pharyngeal suction tips, individually wrapped; and
  - (6) pen light or flashlight.
- (d) A two-way voice communications enabling direct communication with the agency dispatcher and the responding ambulance vehicle on frequencies other than citizens band.
- (e) Safety equipment consisting of:
  - (1) six flares or three U.S. Department of Transportation approved reflective road triangles;
  - (2) one battery lantern in operable condition; and
  - (3) one Underwriters' Laboratory rated five pound ABC fire extinguisher or any extinguisher having a UL rating of 10BC.
- (f) Extrication equipment consisting of:
  - (1) one short backboard or equivalent capable of immobilizing the cervical spine of a seated patient. The short backboard shall have at least two 2 inches x 9 feet long web straps with fasteners unless straps are affixed to the device; and
  - (2) one blanket.