

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 203 Page 1 of 6
Subject	Authorization of Ambulance Provider Agencies in Tulare County	
References	California Vehicle Code; Tulare County Ambulance Ordinance and Resolutions; Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations; and Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations	Effective: 04/19/2005

I. POLICY

Ambulance Provider Agencies operating within Tulare County will be authorized by the EMS Agency and Tulare County for their appropriate level of service in accordance with established policy and procedures.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Ambulance Dispatch Center - The Tulare County Consolidated Ambulance Dispatch Center is the dispatch center authorized by the EMS Agency to provide ambulance dispatch services for Tulare County.
- B. Ambulance Provider Agency/Provider Agency - A private or public organization, or entity, or individual utilizing any ground, water, or air vehicle specifically designed, constructed, modified, equipped, arranged, maintained, operated, used or staffed, including vehicles specifically licensed or operated pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 2416, for the purpose of transporting sick, injured, invalid, convalescent, infirm, or otherwise incapacitated persons and which has met all license and other requirements in applicable Federal, State, and local law and regulation (Section 51151.1 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations and Section 1100.2(a) of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations).
- C. Ambulance Service Area - A specific geographic area within the County of Tulare established by the Board of Supervisor’s resolution.
- D. Ambulance Response Zone - A specific geographic area within the ambulance service area, which is designated by the EMS Agency for assignment of primary and back-up ambulance resources.
- E. Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) - An exclusive operating area is an area defined by the Emergency Medical Services Plan for which the EMS agency, upon the recommendation of the County and pursuant to Division 2.5 of the Health and Safety Code, restricts operations to one or more providers of emergency ambulance service, limited advanced life support services (EMT-II), or advanced life support services (paramedic).
- F. Exclusive Operating Area Provider (EOA Provider) – The ambulance provider contracted for the provision of emergency ambulance and advanced life support (paramedic) ambulance services for a designated exclusive operating area.
- G. Non-Exclusive Operating Area (Non-EOA) - A non-exclusive operating area is an area defined by the County Emergency Medical Services Plan for which the EMS agency does not restrict operations to one or more providers of emergency ambulance service or advanced life support services (paramedic) ambulance service.

Approved By EMS Division Manager	Daniel J. Lynch (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	Revision 01/06/2017
EMS Medical Director	Jim Andrews, M.D. (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	

Subject Authorization of Ambulance Provider Agencies in Tulare County	Policy Number 203
---	-------------------

III. PROCEDURE

A. Exclusive Operating Areas

The Tulare County Exclusive Operating Areas – The EMS Agency has designated three (3) EOAs in Tulare County as specified in Attachment A.

1. Ambulance Zone 1 Dinuba Ambulance Response Area
2. Ambulance Zone 5 Exeter Ambulance Response Area

B. Non-Exclusive Operating Areas

1. The following areas of Tulare County designated as non-exclusive areas:

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Description</u>
a. Ambulance Zone 2	Visalia Ambulance Response Area
b. Ambulance Zone 3	Woodlake Ambulance Response Area
c. Ambulance Zone 4	Three Rivers Ambulance Response Area
d. Ambulance Zone 6	Tulare Ambulance Response Area
e. Ambulance Zone 7	Pixley Ambulance Response Area
f. Ambulance Zone 8	Lindsey Ambulance Response Area
g. Ambulance Zone 9	Porterville Ambulance Response Area
h. Ambulance Zone 10	Kingsburg Ambulance Response Area
i. Ambulance Zone 12	Delano Ambulance Response Area
j. Ambulance Zone 13	Badger Ambulance Response Area
k. Ambulance Zone 14	Camp Nelson Ambulance Response Area
l. Ambulance Zone 15	Posey Ambulance Response Area
m. Ambulance Zone 16	California Hot Springs Ambulance Response Area
n. Ambulance Zone 17	Federal Response Area
o. Ambulance Zone 18	Federal Response Area

2. The potential exists that, during the term of the County’s ambulance provider agreements with the Tulare County ambulance providers for the provision of emergency ambulance services, one or more of the current ambulance provider agencies may discontinue or significantly reduce the scope and scale of its operation. In any such case, the County and EMS Agency may require the Tulare County ambulance providers to implement services within such area(s) and that such area(s), as provided herein.

C. First Responder Services

The County and EMS Agency reserve the right to allow providers, other than the ambulance providers, to operate enhanced first responder services for 911 responses, including, but not limited to, advanced life support (paramedic), advanced EMT, or BLS-defibrillation first responder services, within Tulare County.

D. Air Ambulance / Air Rescue Services

The County and EMS Agency reserve the right to allow providers, other than the ambulance providers, to operate advanced life support air ambulance and/or air rescue services within the Tulare County, including the EOAs. This includes flights and air transportation within Tulare County from air providers responding from outside of Tulare County. Unless the air ambulance/air rescue provider is based within Kings County, no agreement or licensure is required. Dispatch for helicopter air ambulance/air rescue services shall be provided consistent with EMS Agency Policies and Procedures.

Subject	Authorization of Ambulance Provider Agencies in Tulare County	Policy Number 203
---------	---	-------------------

E. Non-Emergency Transports

The County or EMS Agency do not restrict the provision of non-emergency transportation services in EOAs or Non-EOAs that may be provided by entities other than an emergency ambulance service and which do not require vehicles equipped with emergency lights and siren pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 2416, including, but not limited to, services provided by *wheel chair* or *litter van* services. However, providers using ambulance type vehicles for non-emergency medical transportation must remove and/or cover their light-bar and emergency lights if operating within Tulare County.

F. Ambulance Dispatch Center – All ambulances in Tulare County shall receive the primary dispatch of medical incidents from the Tulare County Consolidated Ambulance Dispatch Center (TCCAD).

G. Limited Exceptions to the Ambulance Service Areas (including EOAs)

Services provided to Ambulance Service Areas (including EOAs) shall encompass the operation of all ground emergency ambulance services and advanced life support (paramedic) ground ambulance services with the following exceptions:

1. Disaster Assistance - Ambulances providing assistance at the County's request during disaster incidents may operate within the EOA.
2. Instant Aid/Mutual Aid - The provision of ambulance services pursuant to and requested in accordance with EMS Agency Policies and Procedures and/or under formal instant aid and mutual aid agreements between the ambulance provider and a third party that has been reviewed and approved by the EMS Agency, shall be an exception to the service area.
3. Contracted Specialty Care Units - Ambulance services providing specialty interfacility care and transportation (e.g., neonatal/pediatric transport or critical care transport) utilizing a registered nurse and/or physician staffing, may utilize ambulance vehicles equipped with red emergency warning light and siren only for interfacility transports. Such vehicles and personnel may not be utilized for prehospital responses and such units may not be staffed by paramedics in the place of registered nurses and/or physicians. This includes neonatal and pediatric transport services under contract to Children's Hospital Central California.
4. Veteran's Administration (VA) Contract Ambulance Services - Ambulance services operating pursuant to a federal contract for direct purchase of ambulance services for the Veteran's Administration shall be exempt from the EOA solely for the purpose of servicing that contract.
5. Federally Operated Ambulances - Ambulance services, provided either by an agency of the federal government or a person or entity pursuant to a contract with such agency, shall be exempt from the EOA solely for the purpose of services to that federal facility/agency. Such exception shall not extend to ambulance services provided to the general public except when such members of the public are at such federal facility.
6. State Operated and Contracted Ambulances - Ambulance services, provided either by an agency of the state government or a person or entity pursuant to a contract with such agency, shall be an exception from the ambulance service area solely for the purpose of services to that state facility/agency. Such exception shall not extend to ambulance services provided to the general public except when such members of the public are at such state facility.

Note: For the purposes of this policy and the exclusive operating areas, Medicare and Medicaid (Medi-Cal) authorizations or other arrangements for reimbursement for services shall be considered a reimbursement arrangement - not a federal or state contract for direct purchase of ambulance services.

Subject	Authorization of Ambulance Provider Agencies in Tulare County	Policy Number 203
---------	---	----------------------

H. Ambulance Service Areas

Ambulance service area boundaries are established by the Local EMS Agency. These ambulance service area boundaries include the exclusive operating areas and non-exclusive operating areas within Tulare County (see Attachment A). Ambulance response zones within these ambulance service areas have been designated by the EMS Agency through EMS Policy which defines the geographic areas for data collection and identification of the primary ambulance unit and any applicable back-up ambulance units.

I. Approved Ambulance Provider Agencies

1. Tulare County EOAs - Tulare County includes three (3) exclusive operating areas for the provision of emergency ground ambulance services within Tulare County, which are designated by the EMS Agency and included in the EMS Plan. Therefore, no other ground ambulance provider agencies will be designated for services which are within the geographic area and scope of the exclusive operating area (See Attachment A). The exclusive operating areas and providers are as follows:

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Area / Description</u>	<u>Ambulance Provider</u>
a.	Ambulance Zone 1	Dinuba Ambulance Response Area	Dinuba Fire Department
b.	Ambulance Zone 5	Exeter Ambulance Response Area	Exeter District Ambulance

2. Non-Exclusive Ambulance Providers - The EMS Agency, in conjunction with Tulare County has designated the following non-exclusive providers for the provision of emergency ground ambulance services within Tulare County:

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Ambulance Provider(s)</u>
a.	Ambulance Zone 2	Visalia Ambulance Response Area	American of Visalia
b.	Ambulance Zone 3	Woodlake Ambulance Response Area	Exeter District / American
c.	Ambulance Zone 4	Three Rivers Ambulance Response Area	Exeter District / American
d.	Ambulance Zone 6	Tulare Ambulance Response Area	Life Star Ambulance
e.	Ambulance Zone 7	Pixley Ambulance Response Area	Life Star Ambulance
f.	Ambulance Zone 8	Lindsey Ambulance Response Area	Exeter District / Imperial
g.	Ambulance Zone 9	Porterville Ambulance Response Area	Imperial Ambulance
h.	Ambulance Zone 10	Kingsburg Ambulance Response Area	Kingsburg Fire Dept
i.	Ambulance Zone 12	Delano Ambulance Response Area	Delano Ambulance
j.	Ambulance Zone 13	Badger Ambulance Response Area	Exeter District / American
k.	Ambulance Zone 14	Camp Nelson Ambulance Response Area	Camp Nelson Ambulance
l.	Ambulance Zone 15	Posey Ambulance Response Area	Kern County Ambulance
m.	Ambulance Zone 16	California Hot Springs Ambulance Response Area	California Hot Springs Ambulance / Imperial
n.	Ambulance Zone 17	Federal Response Area	Federal Response
o.	Ambulance Zone 18	Federal Response Area	Federal Response

Subject	Authorization of Ambulance Provider Agencies in Tulare County	Policy Number 203
---------	---	----------------------

3. Anyone desiring to provide ground or air ambulance service within a particular service area shall comply with all relevant sections of the Tulare County Ambulance Ordinance and Resolutions and obtain an ambulance provider agreement with the local EMS Agency (unless the air ambulance/air rescue provider is responding from outside of Tulare County, in which case the provider is exempt from the agreement requirement in accordance with Section III.D.). As applicable, such services would be for non-exclusive operating areas within the County of Tulare or for services which are outside the scope of the exclusive operating area.
4. Ambulance operations within Tulare County shall be conducted in strict accordance with the, all applicable Federal, State, and local codes and regulations including the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code, Title 13 and Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, the California Vehicle Code, local municipal and county codes and regulations, including Tulare County Ambulance Provider Agreements and local EMS Agency policies and procedures.
5. The local EMS Agency shall be notified in writing no less then sixty (60) days prior to an ambulance provider agency changing their level of service (i.e., ALS to BLS), or of their intent to discontinue providing ambulance service within a service area(s).

ATTACHMENT A

County of Tulare Ambulance Service Areas

