

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 261 Page 1 of 2
Subject	Special Rescue Team	
References		Effective 06/26/85

I. POLICY

The responsibility for search and rescue operations, by California State law, rests with the designated County Sheriff's Office. Any and all such operations shall only take place under their direction. The contract requirement for development of a special rescue team will augment the existing rescue services with paramedic level personnel.

II. PURPOSE

The roles of the Special Rescue Team are:

- A. Primary - Gain access and provide Advanced Life Support to patients in difficult or unusual circumstances when necessary.
- B. Secondary - Assist the Sheriff's Office or other authorized personnel in technical rescue and/or evacuation.
- C. Tertiary - Standby to provide emergency care to agency Personnel injured during the course of a rescue mission.

III. PROCEDURE

The following standards shall be met in order to meet the intent of the EMS agreement:

A. DISPATCH

The dispatch of the special rescue team shall be based upon EMS policy (Policy #411). If requests for rescue services are received by the EMS Communications Center, the rescue team shall be dispatched, and the appropriate County Sheriff's Office shall be immediately notified and all details provided.

Approved By	Revision
EMS Division Manager Daniel J. Lynch (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	02/01/97
EMS Medical Director Jim Andrews, M.D. (Signature on File at EMS Agency)	

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B. AVAILABILITY AND STAFFING

Two team members on duty together 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Staffing shall include a minimum of one certified paramedic. Procedures for call-back of personnel shall be implemented.

C. EQUIPMENT

1. All equipment required of ALS units for the provision of field ALS shall be provided. Any modification of equipment or deviation from inventory shall be approved, in advance, by the EMS Agency.
2. Additional rescue equipment to gain safe access to patients in a rescue situation shall be carried. This will include all weather clothing and specialized communication equipment. Inventory lists of such equipment shall be approved by the EMS Agency.

D. MEMBERSHIP SELECTION/QUALIFICATIONS

1. The potential team member shall be selected utilizing interviews, appropriate physical fitness testing, which should include running (cardiovascular condition) and swimming (drown-proofing test).
2. Selected members shall attend applicable schools and training sessions to acquire adequate knowledge and skills to pass both written and skills test. Each member shall be trained in rock and technical rescue at a high intermediate level, certified in swift water rescue, search and rescue, survival training, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and helicopter orientation. Such tests should be reviewed by the Fresno County Sheriff's Office rescue team.
3. Accurate records shall be maintained on all individual recording testing and training sessions indicating content and proficiency level achieved.
4. Continuing education requirements shall be developed using Fresno County Sheriff's Office requirements for training as a minimum indicator.
5. Periodic proficiency testing shall be performed at least semi-annually.