



**City and County of Denver  
Rules and Regulations Governing Emergency Medical Vehicles  
Chapter 17 DRMC**

**Adopted by the Board of Environmental Health on May 10, 2007**

Repeals and replaces the Rules and Regulations Governing Emergency Medical Vehicles  
adopted October 9, 1997

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## **Chapter 1 Authority and Definitions**

### **Section 1-101 Authority**

The Board of Environmental Health and the Manager of Environmental Health adopts these rules and regulations pursuant to the authority granted by the Charter and Section 17-17 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code (DRMC) and supplements the provisions of Chapter 17, DRMC.

### **Section 1-102 Definitions**

The following words and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them:

- A. **Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)** means a course of instruction sponsored by the American Heart Association designed to prepare students in the practice of advanced emergency cardiac care.
- B. **Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Vehicle** means an emergency medical vehicle, in addition to meeting the basic requirements for equipment, must have on board the equipment and medications as required by the physician's advisor's protocol and operating with advanced life support personnel.
- C. **Advanced Life Support Personnel** means a minimum of one Colorado state Certified Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P), or Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I), or registered nurse with advanced cardiac life support certification, or a physician with advanced cardiac life support certification, and a driver with a valid Colorado driver's license and a current Colorado State certified Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) certification.
- D. **Ambulance** means an emergency medical vehicle.
- E. **Ambulance Transport Agency** means any public agency, volunteer organization or commercial enterprise licensed as an ambulance service.
- F. **Ambulance Validation Sticker** means a sticker displayed on the upper left side of the windshield of an ambulance unit indicating that it has been inspected and issued a permit to operate in the County. The sticker shall indicate the month and year of validation.
- G. **Based** means a medical vehicle headquartered in or having a substation or office or a permanent station in the city, and whose primary response is dedicated to transporting patients originating in the city.
- H. **Basic Life Support Emergency Medical Vehicle** means an emergency medical vehicle that meets the requirements for equipment as established by the Board and is staffed by at least one Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) currently certified by the State of Colorado, and a driver that as a minimum has a current American Red Cross Advanced First Aid card, a Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

card, or the equivalent of both as established by the State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services, and a valid Colorado Driver's license.

- I. **Board** means the Board of Environmental Health.
- J. **Board of Medical Examiners Rules** means the rules adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners that establish responsibilities of physician advisors and all authorized acts of emergency medical technicians.
- K. **Call Jumping** means a response to a call for emergency medical service by an emergency medical vehicle service company with the knowledge that another emergency medical vehicle service company has been notified to respond to the call or is actually responding to the call.
- L. **Council** means the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council.
- M. **Department** means the Denver Department of Environmental Health.
- N. **Emergency** means any actual or self-perceived event which threatens life, limb or well-being of an individual in such a manner that immediate medical care is needed.
- O. **Emergency Call** means a real or self-perceived event where the EMS system is accessed by the 9-1-1 emergency access number or its local equivalent, or an inter-facility transfer where the patient's health or well-being could be compromised if the patient is held at the originating facility indefinitely.
- P. **Emergency Facility** means a general hospital with an emergency department staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven days per week, with a licensed physician or an emergency medical outpatient facility staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven days per week with a licensed physician or registered nurse with direct medical supervision by a licensed physician.
- Q. **Emergency Medical Technician** means any individual who, in accordance with Section 25-3.5-101 et seq., C.R.S., and its implementing regulations, holds a valid certificate as a paramedic, emergency medical technician-intermediate, or emergency medical technician-basic issued by the Colorado Department of Health.
- R. **Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B)** means an individual who holds a current and valid Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-B) certificate issued by the State.
- S. **Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I)** means an individual who holds a *current and* valid Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate (EMT-I) certificate issued by the Department.

- T. **Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P)** means an individual who holds a *current and* valid Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMT-P) certificate issued by the Department
- U. **Emergency Medical Vehicle** means any privately or publicly owned land or airborne vehicle, especially constructed or modified and equipped, intended to be used and maintained or operated for the transportation upon the streets and highways in the city, of individuals who are sick, or injured or otherwise incapacitated or helpless; except fixed wing aircraft operating between the city and locations outside the city.
- V. **Emergency Medical Vehicle -advanced life support** means a emergency medical vehicle equipped in accordance with Section 12.9 of the rules pertaining to emergency medical services, 6 CCR 1015-3, and operated by an ambulance service authorizing the vehicle to be used to provide ambulance service limited to the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician-Intermediate or emergency medical technician-paramedic as defined in the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners rules, 3 CCR 713-6, Rule 500, Sections 5 and 6.
- W. **Emergency Medical Vehicle-basic life support** means an emergency medical vehicle equipped in accordance with Section 12.9 of the rules pertaining to emergency medical services, 6 CCR 1015-3, and operated by an ambulance service authorizing the vehicle to be used to provide ambulance service limited to the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician-basic as defined in the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners rules, 3 CCR 713-6, Rule 500, Sections 4.
- X. **Emergency Medical Vehicle-basic life support with advanced life support capabilities** means a emergency medical vehicle equipped in accordance with 12.9 of the rules pertaining to emergency medical services, 6 CCR 1015-3 and operated by an ambulance service authorizing the vehicle to be used to provide ambulance service limited to the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician - basic as defined in the Colorado Board of Medical Examiner Rules, 3 CCR 713-6, Rule 500 Section 4. The vehicle may operate as an advanced life support transport when it contains both the additional required equipment and supplies and is properly staffed with an emergency medical technician-immediate or emergency medical technician-paramedic.
- Y. **Emergency Medical Vehicle Service** means the furnishing, operating, conducting, maintaining, advertising, or otherwise engaging in or professing to be engaged in the business of transportation of patients by emergency medical vehicle. Taken in context, it also means the person so engaged or professing to be so engaged. The person so engaged and the vehicles used for the emergency transportation of persons injured at a mine are excluded form this definition when the personnel utilized in the operation of said vehicles are subject to the mandatory safety standard of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, or its successor agency.

- Z. **Emergency Medical Vehicle Transport** means the transportation of patients originating in the City by Emergency Medical Vehicles licensed by the City.
- AA. **Graduate EMT-Intermediate** - *an individual who has successfully completed a State of Colorado recognized Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate training course but has not yet successfully completed the certification requirements set forth in these rules.*
- BB. **Graduate EMT-Paramedic** means an individual who has successfully completed a State of Colorado recognized EMT-Paramedic training course but has not yet successfully completed the certification requirements set forth in these rules.
- CC. **License** means the authorization issued by the director of excise and licenses to operate a medical vehicle service in the city.
- DD. **Licensee** means the person or entity that has been issued a license by the city to provide medical vehicle service in the city.
- EE. **Medical Director** means a physician who holds an active Colorado medical license, who establishes protocols and standing orders for medical acts performed by department-certified EMTs of a pre-hospital EMS service agency and who is specifically identified as being responsible to assure the competency of the performance of those acts by such department-certified EMTs as described in the physician's medical continuous quality improvement program. Any reference to a "physician advisor" in the City EMS rules or in the Board of Medical Examiners previously adopted rules shall apply to a "medical director" as defined in these rules.
- FF. **Medical quality improvement program** means a process consistent with Colorado Board of Medical Examiners rules, 3 CCR 713-6, Rule 500, Section 3.2 (b), used to objectively, systematically and continuously monitor, assess and improve the quality and appropriateness of care provided by the medical care providers operating on an ambulance service.
- GG. **Medical Facility** means licensed hospitals and nursing homes.
- HH. **Medical Vehicle** means an emergency or non-emergency medical vehicle.
- II. **Medical Vehicle Permit** means the authorization issued by the Director of Excise and Licenses and approved by the Manager of Environmental Health with respect to a medical vehicle used or to be used to provide medical vehicle service in the City.
- JJ. **Medical Vehicle Service** means any person or entity that operates emergency medical vehicles or non-emergency medical vehicles.

KK. **Medical Vehicle Validation Sticker** means a sticker displayed on the left side of the windshield of a medical vehicle unit that has been inspected and issued a permit to operate in the City. The sticker shall indicate the year of validation and shall be provided by the Director of Excise and Licenses.

LL. **Non-emergency Medical Vehicle** means any surface vehicle for hire equipped to transport sick or disabled persons and to provide non-emergency medical service.

MM. **Non-emergency medical vehicle operator** means an individual who holds a current and valid non-emergency medical vehicle operators license issued by the Department of Excise and Licenses.

NN. **Patient** means any individual who is sick, injured or otherwise incapacitated or helpless.

OO. **Patient Care Report** means a medical record of an encounter between any patient and a provider of medical care.

PP. **Physician advisor** means Medical Director.

QQ. **To Operate in the City** means the providing of medical vehicle service or transport of patients originating within the boundaries of the City and County of Denver.

## **Chapter 2 Minimum Standards**

### **Section 2-201 Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Vehicle.**

When an emergency medical vehicle service operates, or charges, as a paramedic or advanced life support emergency medical vehicle service, the staffing must comply with the definition of advanced life support emergency medical vehicle.

### **Section 2-202 Basic Life Support Emergency Medical Vehicle.**

Any emergency medical vehicle staffed and operating as a basic life support emergency medical vehicle service, shall in no way advertise, display or claim to be an advanced life support emergency medical vehicle service unless they are licensed as such.

### **Section 2-203 Emergency Medical Vehicle Crew Members.**

- A. No patient shall be transported in an emergency medical vehicle which is based in the City unless there are two (2) or more persons in the emergency medical vehicle as required by the definitions for advanced life support emergency medical vehicle or basic life support emergency medical vehicle.
- B. The minimum requirements for the person providing direct emergency medical care to patients transported in the vehicle shall be a certified emergency medical technician-basic as defined in Emergency Medical Rules, 6CCR 1015-3.

- C. The minimum requirement for the driver of the vehicle will be a valid Colorado driver's license
- D. In the case of an emergency where no person possessing the qualifications required by this section is present or available to respond to a call for the emergency treatment and transportation of patients by emergency medical vehicle, any person may operate such emergency medical vehicle to transport any sick, injured or otherwise incapacitated or helpless person in order to stabilize the medical condition of such person pending the availability of personnel meeting these minimum requirements.

**Section 2-204 Emergency Medical Vehicle Specifications.**

- A. Ground vehicles obtained, licensed and placed in use as emergency medical vehicles, shall meet the requirements adopted by the State of Colorado.
- B. Variances of the above-mentioned specifications may be granted at the discretion of the board.
- C. All emergency medical vehicles shall have the name of the emergency medical vehicle clearly visible on the vehicle.

**Section 2-205 Emergency Medical Vehicle Equipment.**

A. General

- 1. Each emergency medical vehicle basic life support shall contain the equipment and supplies cited in 12.9.2 of the State Rules and Regulations, as may be amended.
- 2. Each emergency medical vehicle advanced life support shall contain the equipment and supplies cited in 12.9.3 of the State Rules and Regulations, as may be amended.
- 3. Each emergency medical vehicle basic life support and emergency medical vehicle advanced life support shall contain the equipment and supplies as specified below.
- 4. Each emergency medical vehicle shall contain any other equipment or supplies established by the State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services and approved by the State Board of Health that is otherwise not set forth in the above referenced rules and regulations or specifically set forth. The Board of Environmental Health may add to this list at it's discretion as other needs or new methodology becomes known. The list of required equipment is available from The Manager; however, the applicant has the responsibility to comply with all the requirements set forth herein.
- 5. All equipment and supplies shall be maintained in good working order.

B. Basic Life Support. The additional requirements for emergency medical vehicles basic life support are:

1. Patient Assessment Equipment

- a. Thermometer adult and pediatric
- b. Automatic External Defibrillator
- c. Pulse oximeter with adult and pediatric probes.
- d. Electronic blood glucose measuring device.

2. Dressing Materials

- a. Bandages – Sterile 4x4's, ABD pads, triangular bandages, sterile eye pads, roller type, self adhesive and various types and sizes per agency needs and medical director protocol.
- b. Multiple dressings, occlusive dressings, multi-trauma dressing (10X36), and various sizes per ambulance service requirements, needs and medical director protocol.
- c. Citing 12.9.2 (D) (4) of the State Rules and including 1 and 2 inch tape.

3. Extrication Equipment. Each ambulance shall carry extrication equipment appropriate for the level of extrication the ambulance service provides.

4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Properly Sized To Fit All Personnel

5. Safety Equipment. Safe tires and in addition, adequate snow tires or chains when weather conditions demand.

C. Advanced Life Support. The additional requirements for emergency medical vehicles Advance life support are:

1. Ventilation Equipment

- a. Endotracheal tube holder.
- b. Nebulizer, both adult and pediatric

2. Intravenous Equipment

- a. Adult and pediatric intravenous solutions and administration equipment as required in 12.9.3 (D) (1) as well as sterile irrigation solution and volume expander
- b. Constricting bands
- c. Intravenous administration sets and venipuncture needles.
- d. Skin surface preparation (prep pads) for disinfecting the skin.

## **Section 2-206 Delivery to Emergency Facilities.**

- A. All emergency medical vehicles shall deliver patients to the licensed emergency facility of the patient's choosing, or as directed by the patient's physician or member of the patient's immediate family, provided however, when the patient's condition is determined to be emergent or unstable, the emergency medical vehicle service shall deliver the patient to the closest licensed emergency facility, or the facility as designated by the physician advisor.
- B. In all cases where a preference is not expressed, the emergency medical vehicle service should deliver the patient to the nearest licensed emergency facility.
- C. For the public good in the case of emergency medical vehicles owned by public entities, previously defined boundaries of an emergency medical vehicle service area and its delivery destination may override the patient's choice.

## **Section 2-207 Operations Locations.**

No licensed emergency medical vehicle service shall operate from locations other than those on file with the Manager of Environmental Health not shall such licensed emergency medical vehicle service abandon said location without prior notification to the Public Health Inspections Division of the Department of Environmental Health.

## **Section 2-208 Reporting.**

All City and County of Denver licensed emergency medical vehicle services will utilize the statewide emergency medical services uniform pre-hospital care reporting system operated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

## **Section 2-209 Use of Sirens and Emergency Equipment.**

All emergency equipment warning devices shall be used in accordance with all Colorado traffic statutes, rules, and regulations (C.R.S. 42-4-213)

# **Chapter 3 Records, Insurance, Quality Assurance**

## **Section 3-301 Records.**

- A. An emergency medical vehicle service shall maintain all records relating to the transportation of patients as deemed necessary by the manager of environmental health.
- B. Upon request by the department the following documentation will be made available to the department:
  - 1. Copies of the ambulance service's written policy and procedure manual.

2. Copies of the ambulance service's written operational or medical protocols
3. Documentation that information regarding the amount of professional liability insurance the ambulance service carries was provided to employees.
4. Copies of the ambulance service's ongoing medical continuous quality improvement program.
5. Current base rates and hours of availability.
6. Other documentation the City deems necessary.

**Section 3-302 Insurance.**

- A. No ambulance shall operate in the City unless it is covered by insurance as set forth in this paragraph.
- B. Each ambulance service shall maintain insurance coverage for each and every ambulance owned, operated or leased by the ambulance service, providing coverage for injury to or death of persons in accidents resulting from any cause for which the owner of the said vehicle would be liable on account of any liability imposed on him or her by law, regardless of whether the ambulance was being driven by the owner, his or her agent or lessee, or any other person and coverage as against damage to the property of another, including personal property, under like circumstances, in the following amounts:
  1. Statutory Worker's Compensation Insurance
  2. Public Liability and Property Damage, Bodily Injury
 

Each Person	\$ 1,000,000
Each Accident	\$ 2,000,000
  3. Property Damage
 

Each Accident	\$1,000,000
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  4. Professional Liability Coverage
 

Each Person	\$ 1,000,000
Each Accident	\$ 2,000,000
- C. Proof of insurance shall be filed with the application for an ambulance service license as required in these regulations.
- D. Every insurance policy required shall contain a provision for continuing liability there under to the full amount thereof, notwithstanding any recovery thereon, that the liability of the insured shall not be affected by the insolvency or bankruptcy of the insured, and that until a policy is revoked, the insurance company will not be relieved from liability on account of nonpayment of premiums, failure to renew license at the end of the year, or any act of omission of the named insured.

- E. At any time said insurance is required to be renewed, proof of renewal shall be provided to the Manager of the Department of Environmental Health, or their authorized representative.
- F. Any change in the status of vehicles listed on the certificate of insurance during the licensing cycle, shall be noted on a new certificate of insurance and forwarded to the Manager of the Department of Environmental Health or their authorized representative within thirty (30) days of the changes.
- G. Notification of any changes in insurance shall be made in writing within thirty (30) days of such changes to the Manager of the Department of Environmental Health, or their authorized representative by the Licensee, to be followed with a certificate of insurance as outlined in previous paragraphs.
- H. The Board of Environmental Health may require additional proof of insurance at any time as needed in order to promote health, safety and welfare of residents of the City.

### **Section 3-303 Emergency Resources Profile.**

All City and County of Denver licensed emergency medical vehicle services shall submit annually to the department an agency profile providing information on resource availability for planning and coordination of metro area emergency medical and trauma services, as defined by State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council.

### **Section 3-304 Medical Oversight and Quality Improvement**

- A. All City and County of Denver licensed emergency medical vehicle services shall have a primary medical director that meets the requirements established by the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners as defined in the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners 3CCR 7 13-6, Rule 500 to supervise the medical acts performed by all personnel on the ambulance service.
- B. All City and County of Denver licensed emergency medical vehicle services shall report in writing to the department within 15 calendar days of any changes in medical oversight of the emergency medical vehicle service and/or the medical director of record.
- C. All City and County of Denver licensed emergency medical vehicle services shall develop, implement and maintain a medical continuous quality improvement program consistent with the requirements defined in the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners rules 3 CCR 713-6, Rule 500, 3.2,b.

## **Chapter 4 Non Emergency Medical Vehicle**

### **Section 4-401 General**

Each non-emergency medical vehicle shall be maintained in good condition and shall have a minimum of the following safety equipment:

- A. Safe tires and in addition, adequate snow tires or chains when weather conditions demand.
- B. Properly secured patient transport system.
- C. Adequate two way communication capabilities

### **Section 4-402 Crew Members.**

The minimum requirements for the driver of a non-emergency medical vehicle are the following:

- A. The driver has reached the age of eighteen (18),
- B. A valid Colorado driver's license,
- C. A valid non-emergency medical vehicle operator's license issued by the Department of Excise and Licensing,
- D. Completion of a department approved course in cardio pulmonary resuscitation and a standard first aid course,
- E. A licensed physicians statement reciting that the driver has been examined within sixty (60) days preceding the date of license application and has been found free of any physical or mental defect that would affect the ability of the driver to perform satisfactorily the functions set forth in these regulations, and
- F. Met the department's standards for safe and proper operation of a non-emergency medical vehicle.

## **Chapter 5 Licenses**

### **Section 5-501 License and permits required**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate an emergency medical vehicle service, to operate a business engaged in transporting patients, or to operate a medical vehicle anywhere in the city without first obtaining the required licenses and permits from the Director of Excise and Licenses as set forth in Chapter 17, DRMC

### **Section 5-502 Emergency Medical Vehicle Service License and Vehicle Permit Renewal.**

- A. Emergency medical vehicle service licenses may be renewed as provided in Section 32-20, DRMC as that provision may be amended from time to time.

- B. The standards for approval or disapproval of applications for renewal of licenses and permits shall be the same as for new applications.

## **Chapter 6 Revocation and Suspension**

### **Section 6-601 General**

- A. Medical vehicle service licenses and medical vehicle permits may be revoked and suspended by the Director of Excise and Licenses in accordance with standards and procedures established by Chapter 32, D.R.M.C. and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Manager to notify local law enforcement authorities, fire departments, hospitals, and the physician advisor(s) of revocation or suspension.
- C. The following practices shall be unlawful and may be grounds for a suspension or revocation of licenses:
  - 1. Willful and deliberate failure to respond to any call in the absence of good cause shown.
  - 2. Willful and deliberate failure to transport a patient when required by the nature of the injury in the absence of a competent patient denial of emergency care.
  - 3. Administration of any substances considered a drug or intravenous fluid unless under direct order of a physician, either present or by radio or telephone, except as permitted by protocol.
  - 4. Administering unnecessary treatment or supplies to a patient for the purpose of increasing the patient's bill.
  - 5. Charging for treatment or supplies not actually provided.
  - 6. Call jumping
  - 7. Non-compliance with any rule or regulation promulgated by the Colorado State Board of Medical Examiners, or the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, or the Board of Environmental Health, or the Department of Excise and Licenses.
  - 8. Conduct that constitutes a significant threat to the health or safety of the individuals receiving emergency care from a licensed emergency medical vehicle service. Such conduct may include but not limited to: persons who have been convicted of felonies or crimes involving moral turpitude and individuals engaged in substance abuse. Such persons shall be subject to investigation to determine whether the applicant has sufficiently

rehabilitated to accept the responsibilities incumbent on a holder of such license.

9. Failure to deliver a patient to the appropriate emergency facility, medical facility, or medical services provider as set forth in these regulations.
10. Driving an emergency medical vehicle in a reckless manner, or while under the influence of alcohol or other performance altering drugs.
11. Requiring any employee of an emergency medical vehicle service company to be on duty for any period in excess of forty-eight (48) hours. Volunteer emergency medical vehicle services are exempt.
12. Making a false or fraudulent statement on any application for a license or permit issued pursuant to these regulations.

**Approved for publication and adopted by the Board of Environmental Health at the regular board meeting of May 10, 2007.**