



**ACCREDITATION TO PRACTICE
AIR RESCUE PERSONNEL CRITERIA**

I. AUTHORITY:

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798 and 1797.185; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2 and 4.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes the process for by which licensed California EMTs, AEMTs and Paramedics are permitted to practice as Air Rescue personnel in Orange County.

III. DEFINITIONS:

"Local Accreditation" or **"accreditation"** or **"accreditation to practice"** means authorization by OCEMS to practice as an Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic within Orange County. Such authorization indicates that the EMT, AEMT or Paramedic has completed the requirements of California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9.

IV. ACCREDITATION CRITERIA:

In order to be eligible for accreditation to practice in Orange County, the EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic must meet all of the following:

- A. Possess a valid, current State of California EMT, AEMT or Paramedic license.
- B. Not be precluded from accreditation to practice as an EMT, AEMT or Paramedic for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
- C. Be affiliated with an OCEMS approved basic life support (BLS) or advanced life support (ALS) air rescue service provider.
- D. Successfully complete the accreditation process (See Section V) within a 30 day period.

V. ACCREDITATION PROCESS:

1. EMT's, AEMT's and Paramedics applying for local accreditation as **Air Rescue** personnel must complete and submit the following to OCEMS:
 - A. Copy of State of California EMT, AEMT or Paramedic license.
 - B. Evidence of completion of an OCEMS approved Medical Flight Crew Training Program.
 - C. Completion of an OCEMS approved OCEMS system orientation which includes as a minimum the understanding of OCEMS policies and procedures.
 - D. Copy of current CPR (Healthcare provider or professional rescuer course as approved by the OCEMS Medical Director).
 - E. Complete the appropriate OCEMS Air Rescue accreditation application online through OC-MEDS.
 - F. Pay the established fee. (Reference OCEMS Policy #470.00)



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VI. MAINTAINING ACCREDITATION:

1. The OCEMS Air Rescue Accreditation shall expire on the same date as that of the applicant's California EMT, AEMT, Paramedic License or sooner if requested by applicant.
2. In order to maintain local accreditation to practice, **Air Rescue** personnel shall submit evidence of the following via the Air Rescue accreditation renewal in OC-MEDS:
 - A. Copy of valid State of California EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic license.
 - B. Evidence of completion of one advanced airway review session per year.

Note: The OCEMS medical director and/or the base hospital physician director may require additional airway review for any EMT, AEMT or Paramedic at any time if deemed necessary (e.g., undetected or uncorrected esophageal intubation, dislodgement, other).

- C. Evidence of successful completion of all OCEMS approved mandatory EMS system updates and in-services.
- D. Complete the OCEMS Air Rescue accreditation renewal application online through OC-MEDS.
- E. Pay the established fee (Reference OCEMS Policy #470.00)

VII. INACTIVE STATUS:

1. Air Rescue Personnel will be considered INACTIVE if any conditions listed in Section VI. 2 are not satisfied.

VIII. ACCREDITED PARAMEDIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

The OCEMS Air Rescue Accredited personnel are responsible for all of the following:

- A. Notification of OCEMS at any point accreditation criteria is not being met.
- B. Compliance with OCEMS Policies/Procedures, Standing Orders and Treatment Guidelines.

IX. PROVIDER AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES:

The provider agency shall be responsible for all of the following:

- A. Ensuring Air Rescue Medics are not precluded from practice for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
- B. Reporting to OCEMS any situations as mandated by statute.
- C. Assuring Air Rescue Personnel meet performance standards as outlined in the sponsoring agencies quality assurance/improvement program to safely provide prehospital emergency medical care.
- D. Assuring Air Rescue Personnel are current in all accreditation requirements including skills training and mandatory in-services.



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E. Advising OCEMS and the assigned base hospital within thirty (30) days when an Air Rescue personnel changes status (ACTIVE to INACTIVE). Notification shall include the name and OCEMS accreditation number of the personnel and the reason for the change in status.

X. EMS AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. OCEMS shall review Air Rescue applications submitted by the EMT, AEMT or Paramedic and his/her sponsoring agency for completeness and determine if the individual meets all local accreditation requirements.
- B. Successful applicants and his/her sponsoring agency shall be notified regarding local accreditation within thirty (30) days of documentation of all accreditation requirements and payment of the established fee.
- C. OCEMS shall assign a local accreditation number; this number shall be used on all documents used within the OCEMS system.
- D. OCEMS shall submit to the EMS Authority the names and dates of accreditation for those individuals it accredits within twenty working days of accreditation.

XI. DENIAL / SUSPENSION / WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION

Denial, suspension, and/or withdrawal of accreditation will adhere to OCEMS Policy and Procedure #460.00.

Note: Individuals who are accredited as an EMT, AEMT or paramedic in Orange County shall utilize the Orange County Scope of Practice when responding out-of-county (e.g., inter-county transport of patients, mutual or automatic aid, on a strike team) or during a disaster.

Approved:

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