

## **Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) Scope of Practice (SOP) at Stand-by Events as an Independent Contractor Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Sacramento County EMS Agency (SCEMSA) Policy 2220 – EMT Scope of Practice (SOP), states that an EMT is prohibited from operating independently at standby events. Why?**

- An independent contractor performing the EMT full SOP is operating outside of medical control and does not meet the current requirements for medical control, documentation or CEMSIS standards as required by California Health and Safety Code. Therefore, a certified EMT is prohibited from performing the full EMT SOP as an independent contractor. SCEMSA made edits to the policy to clarify the language adding that they may perform basic first aid.

### **Can I hire a California State Certified EMT to do independent work at standby events?**

- Yes, but they can only practice under the basic SOP as an EMT (basic first aid).

### **Will SCEMSAs Medical Director write a prescription for oxygen to a contracted independent EMT for standby events?**

- No. EMTs that are working as independent contractors for standby events do not have any medical oversight, supervision, or accountability to a medical care provider/employer. EMTs, by statute, are not independent contractors.

### **Who provides medical oversight if an event hires an EMT independently?**

- An EMT working independently of a Basic Life Support (BLS)/Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider agency does not have any medical oversight or control. The medical director and an EMS System provides oversight, medical direction, quality improvement and quality assurance process **if** the EMT is employed and accountable to a BLS/ALS provider agency. BLS/ALS provider agencies have the components critical to ensuring a safe standard of EMT practice for citizens. Under the medical director and EMS system, the medical liability falls on the BLS/ALS provider.
- When an EMT functions outside of medical direction, the medical liability falls back onto the County, unless SCEMSA policy specifically states an EMT is not authorized to function as an independent contractor.

- EMTs that function as independent contractors do not have their own liability and malpractice insurance.

**Is SCEMSA requiring event holders to hire a BLS/ALS provider agency?**

- No. SCEMSA is not requiring an ambulance provider to be at special events. SCEMSA is not prohibiting an EMT from working independently at special events under the basic first aid scope.

**Is SCEMSA charging money for independent contractors?**

- No.