

COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title AMBULANCE COMPANY LICENSING PROCEDURE		Policy Number 111	
APPROVED: Administration: Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic		Date: January 3, 2023	
APPROVED: Medical Director: Daniel Shepherd, M.D.		Date: January 3, 2023	
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- I. Purpose: All ambulance companies conducting business within Ventura County shall be licensed to operate in the County of Ventura.
- II. Authority: Ventura County EMS Agency (VCEMS) Policy 110, Ventura County Ordinance No. 4099.
- III. Policy:
  - A. License Application:
 

Every applicant for an ambulance company license shall submit the application fee, if any, along with an ambulance license application packet, containing the following elements:

    1. Letter of interest on company letterhead, labeled as "Attachment I", stating at minimum:
      - a. Company's interest in providing services in Ventura County.
      - b. Brief statement of your company's service history and background, including the trade or other fictitious name, if any, under which the applicant does business and/or proposes to do business.
      - c. The name, address, date of birth, height, weight, and color of eyes and hair of the applicant and of the owner of the ambulance(s).
    2. The applicant and owner shall complete a California Bureau of Criminal Identification, Department of Justice background check via Live Scan Service. The applicant shall contact VCEMS for the fingerprinting procedure. A copy of the completed Live Scan form(s) shall accompany the application labeled as "Attachment II".
    3. Documentation of the training and experience of the applicant and managers involved in the transportation and care of patients, labeled as "Attachment III". Evidence shall include applicant and manager resumes showing type and duration of transportation experience, including at least five (5) years of increasingly

responsible experience in the operation or management of a basic or advanced life support service. Each applicant and/or manager must complete, sign, and submit a written statement, (1) identifying all licenses and franchises held during the last ten (10) years, (2) disclosing whether the applicant or the principals of the applicant have ever been investigated by any governmental agency, the nature of the investigation, and the results of the investigation, including revocation or denial of licenses applicant previously held or applied for, and (3) describing the applicant and/or manager's prior conviction of any misdemeanor or felony, and/or any pending criminal proceedings at the time of application.

4. The location and descriptions of the place or places from which ambulances are intended to operate, labeled as "Attachment IV". Prior to approval of an ambulance license, applicant must establish at least one ambulance station within Ventura County, with the capability of supporting ambulance operations on a continuous 24-hour-per-day basis.
  - a. All such locations will comply with all applicable zoning, building, and occupational health and safety regulations and shall be sufficient for all personnel in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations.
  - b. Each ambulance station will be adequate to house the ambulance crew(s) required for the ambulance(s) based at that location. Each ambulance based at that location must be available as a disaster resource within one hour of VCEMS request.
  - c. Ambulance stations are subject to announced or unannounced VCEMS inspection.

Upon approval and issuance of an ambulance license, applicant will provide a minimum of one on-duty ambulance on a continuous 24-hour-per-day basis within the County of Ventura. Additionally, applicant must have a supervisor on duty 24 hours per day who will be available in Ventura County within one hour of a request from VCEMS.

5. Description of each ambulance proposed to be operated by the applicant, labeled as "Attachment V". Provide a color photograph or drawing which clearly shows the color scheme and insignia for your ambulances and a description of the total number of vehicles operated by applicant and the number of ambulance licenses that applicant is requesting. For each ambulance listed for licensure, provide the unit number, license number, vehicle identification number (VIN), make, model

year, model type, mileage, projected vehicle life, and patient capacity of each vehicle. Attach copies of the current vehicle registration issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the California Highway Patrol (CHP) emergency vehicle license and the results of the most recent CHP inspection for each vehicle to be licensed. Prior to approval of an ambulance license, all ambulances proposed to operate in Ventura County will be inspected and shall meet the following:

- a. Primary ambulances assigned to Ventura County must be less than six (6) years old and have less than 250,000 miles at time of initial licensure. Ambulances exceeding these maximums may be authorized for use in a reserve capacity following an annual inspection.
- b. BLS transport unit equipment and supply requirements as established in VCEMS Policy 504.
- c. Radio communication capabilities as provided in VCEMS Policy 905.
- d. Radio identification number shall be clearly marked on all four sides of ambulances assigned to Ventura County.
- e. All ambulances authorized to operate within Ventura County will be required to install and continuously operate automatic vehicle location (AVL) equipment compatible with the Ventura County Fire Department's regional communications system. Applicant shall contact VCEMS for AVL requirements and procurement procedure.

Any costs for procurement, installation and the continuous operation of the equipment/supplies, radio and AVL requirements are the sole responsibility of the ambulance provider. Only ambulances equipped as described above will be permitted to operate in Ventura County. Ambulances will be subject to announced and unannounced inspection by VCEMS.

6. A statement listing any facts which the applicant believes tend to prove that public convenience, safety and necessity require the granting of a license, labeled as "Attachment VI". Facts shall include written statements or other evidence of either inadequate response times or inadequate care from existing providers. To establish public convenience, safety, or necessity, the applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the VCEMS Administrator that it has complied with each of the following requirements:

- a. The applicant has complied with all provisions of this policy.
  - b. The applicant is, under normal conditions, serving or likely to serve the public adequately.
  - c. The applicant has submitted a “business plan” or “statement of work” which demonstrates that the applicant will provide ambulance services which will enhance the current system and the level of services.
  - d. The applicant meets the minimum requirements to have an ambulance license.
7. A financial statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth for the past three (3) years prepared by a recognized accounting or bookkeeping firm, labeled as “Attachment VII”. If the applicant has had less than three (3) years experience in business, the financial statement will be required to cover the period of time the applicant has been in business and additional weight shall be given to documentation provided in response to Section III.A.3 above. The financial statements shall demonstrate that the applicant has adequate financial health, based on liquidity, profitability, and sustainability, to maintain ambulance service operations. All applicants must also submit current bank statements for the most recent three (3) months and data showing the estimated average cost of operating one trip, and the number of trips per day a vehicle must run to be profitable (the costs per trip should be itemized, you may use break-even formulas), and describe any unpaid judgments against the applicant, as well as the nature of transactions or acts giving rise to said judgments. All liabilities must be clearly defined and disclosed. If approved, applicant will submit annual financial statements to VCEMS within three (3) months of the end of the applicant’s fiscal year.
8. Applicant shall establish a VCEMS approved EMT AED Service Provider program which, at a minimum, meets all requirements of VCEMS Policies 802 and 803. Documentation of EMT AED Service Provider program and VCEMS approval shall be labeled as “Attachment VIII”.
9. Applicant shall provide verification of a VCEMS approved Continuous Quality Improvement Program (CQIP), labeled as “Attachment IX”. Applicant’s CQIP must meet the requirements of VCEMS Policy 120 and applicant must agree to fully participate in VCEMS CQI projects and committees.

10. Applicant shall provide copies of its medical dispatch policies and procedures, labeled as "Attachment X". Applicant must submit copies of dispatch logs for the thirty (30) day period immediately prior to the date of the application and a description of the qualifications for dispatchers. Applicant must also submit a letter of agreement to use the VCEMS approved "Dispatch Call Entry Form" for any Ventura County based ambulance requests.
11. Applicant shall provide a description of the company's accounts receivable management system, labeled as "Attachment XI". Documentation should include the location of the closest physical billing office to Ventura County and the training and experience of billing staff and billing management. If the location is not in Ventura County, applicant must provide staff specifically trained and available to address billing inquiries from Ventura County patients.
12. A list of insurance and liability coverage, including certificates of insurance or other evidence of coverage, labeled as "Attachment XII". The minimum insurance coverage types and limit requirements for ambulance companies include general liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1 million each occurrence and \$2 million aggregate; automobile liability insurance with limits of not less than \$1 million each accident covering all vehicles used by the applicant; worker's compensation and employers' liability insurance, or an equivalent program of self-insurance coverage which complies with California Labor Code requirements; and professional liability insurance covering applicant's errors and omissions with limits of not less than \$1 million per each claim and \$2 million aggregate. Such insurance shall be provided by insurer(s) satisfactory to VCEMS and upon licensure approval, the general and auto liability insurance policies shall name the County of Ventura as an additional insured.
13. Applicant shall provide a written statement, labeled as "Attachment XIII", of intent to comply with the Multi-Casualty Incident Response plan as addressed in VCEMS Policy 131. During multi-casualty incidents (MCIs), the capability of the 911 ambulance providers to provide necessary prehospital emergency care and transportation may be insufficient for the number of casualties. Therefore, it is necessary that all non-911 ambulances operating in Ventura County be available to assist during an MCI. For this reason, each ambulance provider will make available, and place into service, all available licensed units upon VCEMS request. All ambulance providers, in the event of an MCI, will:

- a. Provide immediate ambulance resource availability within Ventura County when requested by VCEMS.
- b. Have an emergency response plan which includes a personnel call-back plan.
- c. Have all management and field personnel trained for compliance with VCEMS Policy 131 within 6 months of licensure.
- d. Provide, within reason, immediate response to any polls or surveys from VCEMS.
- e. Provide, within reason, equipment, facilities, and personnel as requested by VCEMS.
- f. When funding is available, the County of Ventura may assist the participating providers in seeking reimbursement for its costs from any disaster relief funding. The County of Ventura will have no financial responsibility for these costs or charges.

When requested by VCEMS, the licensed ambulance provider will participate in a Ventura County organized disaster exercise by assigning a minimum of one (1) fully staffed ambulance and one (1) supervisor. VCEMS will request participation from licensed providers with a minimum of thirty (30) days written notice. All costs associated with participation in the disaster exercise will be the sole responsibility of the licensed provider.

14. The applicant shall provide a written statement, labeled as "Attachment XIV", of intent to comply with the requirements of the VCEMS Policies and Procedures Manual and the standards and policies set by the Medical Director of VCEMS.
15. Attach evidence of support for applicant and label as "Attachment XV". Applicant must provide a minimum of three (3) written statements of support, on letterhead, from responsibly positioned, Ventura County-based, residents, institutions, or users of the service.
16. Submit the completed application packet and payment, if any, and five (5) copies of the entire application (including all attachments) to:  
EMS Administrator  
Ventura County EMS Agency  
2220 E. Gonzales Rd. #130  
Oxnard, CA 93036

The original and all copies of the application packet must be submitted in a 3-ring loose leaf binder, with labeled dividers for each attachment identified above. Do

not place documents or pages of the application in page protectors or covers. Two sided copies are encouraged, whenever possible. Applications determined to be incomplete will be returned to the applicant and will not be processed.

B. Procedure for Processing Application for Ambulance Company License:

1. VCEMS shall commence processing an application within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date the application is filed and determined to be complete. Application packets will initially be reviewed by VCEMS staff for compliance with the application requirements in Section III.A of this policy. Once all sections of the application have been reviewed for compliance, the VCEMS Administrator will determine if the application is complete or if the application is deficient in any area. If the application is determined to be deficient, the application will be denied and the applicant will be notified in writing. The applicant will have thirty (30) calendar days in which to respond. Failure to provide the requested information within thirty (30) days will result in the abandonment of the application and the complete application process, including fees, must be restarted in order to be considered for licensure. If the application is determined to be complete, the review process will continue as follows:
  - a. VCEMS Administrator will notify all ambulance companies licensed by the County, members of the Prehospital Services Committee (PSC), and EMS Advisory Committee of the receipt of the application and the name and address of the applicant.
  - b. VCEMS staff will thoroughly investigate the conditions and requirements listed in Section III.A (except for Sections III.A.7, III.A.11 and III.A.12) of the application packet to verify the information submitted as they relate to the applicant's ability to provide ambulance service in compliance with the standards of this policy.
2. Specific Ventura County departments will review sections of the application that are pertinent to their area of responsibility as follows:
  - a. The Ventura County Auditor/Controller's Office shall be requested to review and comment on the financial statement and accounts receivable documents provided in response to Sections III.A.7 and III.A.11, as they relate to the applicant's ability to meet the financial obligations of the business.

- b. The Ventura County Risk Management Division shall be requested to review the insurance and liability documents provided in response to Section III.A.12, as they relate to the minimum coverage requirements.
3. The VCEMS Administrator shall conclude evaluation of the application and prepare an administrative report that summarizes each of the application sections and verifies the applicant's compliance with all of the required elements of this policy.
4. VCEMS will present the administrative report and all information received regarding the application to the PSC within one hundred twenty (120) days of the date the application was determined to be complete. The committee shall regard the information as privileged and shall use discretion in its handling of the application materials. PSC members from current Ventura County licensed ambulance providers will be excused during the review process.
  - a. PSC shall review the application and develop a written report of its findings to submit to the EMS Advisory Committee.
  - b. The findings shall include:
    - (1) Whether the applicant has substantially met all elements of the ambulance licensing procedure described in this policy.
    - (2) Whether or not public convenience, safety and necessity requires the issuance of an ambulance license.
    - (3) Whether the applicant's experience and past performance meets the standards in the VCEMS Policies and Procedures Manual.
    - (4) Any other pertinent information.
5. The EMS Advisory Committee shall convene; within ninety (90) days from the date PSC completes its review, to evaluate the application packet, the VCEMS administrative report and the PSC report. The EMS Advisory Committee will develop a written report recommending approval or denial of the application and shall include:
  - a. Whether the applicant has complied with all provisions of this policy.
  - b. Whether the applicant is, under normal conditions, serving or likely to serve the public adequately.



- c. Whether the applicant has submitted a “business plan” or “statement of work” which demonstrates that the applicant will provide ambulance services which will enhance the current system and the level of services.
- d. Whether the applicant meets the minimum requirements to have an ambulance license.
- e. Whether additional information is needed.

An approval recommendation by the EMS Advisory Committee is required before proceeding with the application process. Failure to receive an approval recommendation from the EMS Advisory Committee will result in an administrative denial of the application.

- 6. A denial recommendation from the EMS Advisory Committee may be appealed to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors by following the appeal provisions in Ventura County Ordinance No. 4099.
- 7. The VCEMS Administrator shall notify the Ventura County Auditor/Controller of approved applications and shall indicate the service area for which the license is valid.
- 8. Upon payment of the established license fee by the applicant, VCEMS shall issue the license.
- 9. The license shall be valid for two (2) years from the date of issue or until surrendered by the licensee, until sale of the company, or until revoked or suspended in accordance with the provisions of the VCEMS Policies and Procedures Manual.
- 10. The Director of the Health Care Agency or designee(s) shall deny, suspend or revoke an ambulance license in accordance with Sections 2424-1 and 2424-2 of Ventura County Ambulance Ordinance No. 4099.
- 11. Application for ambulance license renewal, and license renewal fee, if any, shall be received by VCEMS at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the current ambulance license.
- 12. Ambulance providers that contract with the County to provide emergency ambulance service and which are required by contract to meet all the required conditions for license applicants, may be deemed by the VCEMS Administrator to meet the qualifications for a license and for ongoing license renewals. In such cases, the providers will not be required to comply with the application and re-application procedure described in Section III.A.