

Subject: Administration – Quality Assurance
Ambulance Personal Protective Equipment

I. Authority and Reference (incorporated herein by references)

- A. Division 2.5 of Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.220, 1798.
- B. EMSA Guidelines #216, SB 409
- C. North Coast EMS Policies and Procedures

II. Purpose

All ambulance services, both emergency and non-emergency, must be integrated into the disaster medical response system. Through acceptance of the ambulance personal protective equipment (PPE) grant, the ambulance providers agree, through a contract or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the North Coast EMS Agency, to participate in state and local disaster response or a declared emergency. In responding to any incident, it is the responsibility of all personnel to check in with the Incident Commander to determine appropriate levels of PPE.

Adherence to the PPE policy will ensure safety, readiness, and the ability to meet the requirements of an “all hazards” disaster response. This is consistent with the premise that ambulance personnel should not respond to an incident requiring PPE beyond their level of provision and training without adhering to published standards.

North Coast EMS has, through a grant from the California EMS Authority, procured Ambulance PPE in accordance with EMSA guidelines #216. All usage of this PPE is subject to the following terms and conditions.

III. Policy:

Every person working on an ambulance (public or private, emergency or non-emergency, ALS or BLS) shall have available PPE consistent with this policy.

IV. Procedure:

A. Availability and Specifications: The following required equipment shall be available on every ambulance within the region for providers who have received PPE equipment from EMSA; we strongly recommend the same for all providers, (i.e. all items on the next page except “Additional PPE”). We recommend acquisition of Extended Operations Equipment.

**Minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
EMSA Guidelines #216**

REQUIRED ITEM	SPECIFICATIONS
Head	
Rescue Helmet (Work Helmet)	NFPA 1951, Blue Color
Eye Protection, Work goggles	NFPA 1999, EMS Standards
Eye Protection, glasses	NFPA 1999, EMS Standards
Hearing Protection	Ear plugs or other
Body	
Garment – EMS Uniform-type (Barrier Protection, multiple use)	NFPA 1999, EMS Standards Full-body – Long-sleeve shirt and long pants
Jacket, full length – EMS, with reflective stripes	NFPA 1999, EMS Standards
Garment (single use)	NFPA 1999, EMS Standards “White Tyvek”
Hooded, chemical-resistant clothing	For Vehicle Decontamination “Tychem”
Hands	
Gloves – Chemical-protective, nitrile	Nitrile-type or equivalent
Gloves – Work (Multiple use, Leather)	NFPA 1999, Physical protection
Feet	
Footwear, Personal (Multi-use, Safety)	NFPA 1999 EMS Standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height: min. 4” • Cut, puncture, & abrasion resistant • Toe safety • Barrier protection
Footwear covers, single use	NFPA 1999 OSHA: chemical resistant
Respiratory	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N-100 Mask, <u>or</u> N-95 Mask 	
APR, Full-Face Respiratory Protection Mask (N95), or Level “C” or Escape Hood (NIOSH)	Fit-Testing Program Required
Additional PPE	
Prophylactic Medications (Nerve Agent), Mark I Auto-Injector Kit	As determined by local hazard assessments
Ballistic Vest, Protective	Optional, as determined by agency
Routine Equipment	
Flashlight, small	Or headlamp
Knife - Folding	Capable of cutting seatbelts
Glass punch	Capable of breaking windshields
Scissors/Shear	Bandage/Utility Note: Small equipment items/tools can be combined in a “multi-tool”
Stethoscope	
Personal communication device	Radio, on appropriate frequency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Operations Guides (FOGs) 	Per local entity policy

Extended Operations Equipment	
"Go Pack" for disaster response	Mission-ready backpack or duffel bag for each person for response operations during a potential extended disaster event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipped for individual's self-sustainment for 72 hours Containing personal supplies and equipment needed to sustain operations and provide general response operations support
• Water	
• Water purification	Tablets or device
• Rain Gear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head protection Top protection Bottom – optional
• Extra set of emergency medical garments	Emergency medical garment, as above
• MRE	Meals Ready-to-Eat, or equivalent
• Ear protection	Extra set

* NFPA - National Fire Protection Administration Standards (Standard Number)

B. Maintenance: All equipment shall be maintained in a ready-to-use state and shall be used in accordance with policy. Protective equipment, including personal protective equipment for eyes, face, head, and extremities, protective clothing, respiratory devices, and protective shields and barriers, shall be provided, used, and maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition.

C. Training: Prior to usage all personal who may be required to utilize PPE shall receive necessary training in the usage of equipment in accordance with OSHA requirements [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132(f)]. The employer shall provide training to each employee who is required by this section to use PPE. Each such employee shall be trained to know at least the following:

1. When PPE is necessary; what PPE is necessary; how to properly don, doff, adjust, and wear PPE; the limitations of the PPE; and the proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of the PPE [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 (f)(1)(i – v)].
2. Each affected employee shall demonstrate an understanding of the training specified in paragraph (f)(1) of this section, and the ability to use PPE properly, before being allowed to perform work requiring the use of PPE [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 (f)(2)].

3. When the employer has reason to believe that any affected employee who has already been trained does not have the understanding and skill required by paragraph (f)(2) of this section, the employer shall retrain each such employee. Circumstances where retraining is required include, but are not limited to, situations where changes in the workplace render previous training obsolete; changes in the types of PPE to be used render previous training obsolete; or inadequacies in an affected employee's knowledge or use of assigned PPE indicate that the employee has not retained the requisite understanding or skill [ref. 29 CFR 1910.132 (f)(3)].

4. The employer shall verify that each affected employee has received and understood the required training through a written certification that contains the name of each employee trained, the date(s) of training, and that identifies the subject of the certification.

5. The employer shall ensure proper fit testing for any respiratory protection in accordance with OSHA requirements (ref. 29 CFR 1910.134). In any workplace where respirators are necessary to protect the health of the employee or whenever respirators are required by the employer, the employer shall establish and implement a written respiratory protection program with worksite-specific procedures. The program shall be updated as necessary to reflect those changes in workplace conditions that affect respirator use.

V. Procedures Required: The employer shall include in the program the following provisions of this section, as applicable:

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