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**DATE:** March 24, 2010  
**TO:** North Coast EMS Certified EMTs  
**FROM:** Wendy Chapman, Training Coordinator  
**SUBJECT: MANDATED DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) BACKGROUND CHECKS**

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Effective July 1, 2010, the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) will implement significant changes in EMT regulations. Two of the new regulations will have implications for most certifying individuals:

- A. EMSA will roll out a new Central Registry which local EMS agencies will be required to maintain. The public will have access to obtaining certification information including whether the certification is active and if it is in good standing. The cost of this registry is being passed on to certifying EMTs. The State will assess a \$75 certification fee for every initial application and a \$37 fee for recertification. Local EMS agencies will collect the funds on behalf of EMSA at the time of application. EMSA's certification fee is in addition to the North Coast EMS certification/recertification fee, which is currently \$40.
- B. All EMTs must have a California Department of Justice (DOJ) background investigation with Subsequent Arrest Notifications (LiveScan) with State and Federal Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) on file with the Local EMS Agency. The cost for this is currently \$32 for the DOJ background check, and \$19 for the FBI CORI background check.

The following scenarios have been developed to assist you through this transition:

- A. If a background check (LiveScan) was completed for the purposes of employment and that employer is a public safety agency that employs firefighters, lifeguards or peace officers, the EMT **may** also be "grandfathered" into the registry, provided the employer submits written documentation to North Coast EMS confirming:
  - 1. Employer conducted a previous State level CORI on the EMT prior to July 1, 2010.
  - 2. **Employer is actively receiving subsequent arrest notification reports from the California DOJ prior to July 1, 2010 on the EMT.**
  - 3. Nothing in the CORI search precluded the applicant from obtaining EMT certification as outlined in Division 9, Title 22, Chapter 6, Section 100216 of the California Health and Safety Code:

- a. Has committed any sexually related offense specified under Section 290 of the Penal Code.
- b. Has been convicted of murder, attempted murder, or murder for hire.
- c. Has been convicted of two (2) or more felonies.
- d. Is on parole or probation for any felony.
- e. Has been convicted and released from incarceration for said offense during the preceding fifteen (15) years for the crime of manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter.
- f. Has been convicted and released from incarceration for said offense during the preceding ten (10) years for any offense punishable as a felony.
- g. Has been convicted of two (2) or more misdemeanors within the preceding five (5) years for any offense relating to the use, sale, possession, or transportation of narcotics or addictive or dangerous drugs.
- h. Has been convicted of two (2) or more misdemeanors within the preceding five (5) years for any offense relating to force, threat, violence, or intimidation.
- i. Has been convicted within the preceding five (5) years of any theft related misdemeanor.

North Coast EMS is currently working with its qualifying providers to provide this information. Check with your EMS Coordinator to see if your department has submitted this on your behalf.

- B. If you do not meet either of the requirements above, it is recommended that you complete the LiveScan process as soon as possible to avoid fees which go into effect July 1, 2010. LiveScans processed by North Coast EMS prior to June 15, 2010 will be submitted to the Central Registry. Approximate LiveScan cost is:

\$32 for DOJ background check fee  
\$20 fingerprint rolling fee (this fee varies depending on the agency)

At the time of recertification, submit application to North Coast EMS and pay:

\$37 for EMSA recertification fee  
\$40 for NCEMS recertification fee

**Total cost for LiveScan and recertification is approximately \$129**

C. If you have not completed the LiveScan process or are unable to provide documentation of completion before June 15, 2010, you will be required to complete it prior to recertification. You will be required to have DOJ and FBI background checks conducted, which must include primary notification to the EMT certifying entity (NCEMS) and secondary notification to the EMS Authority (EMSA). Cost for this is estimated at:

\$75 for EMSA initial certification fee  
\$32 for DOJ background check fee  
\$19 for FBI background check fee  
\$20 fingerprint rolling fee (varies)  
\$40 for NCEMS certification fee

**Total cost for LiveScan and recertification is approximately \$186**

LiveScan locations are available at most Sheriff's Department's and some local Police Departments. You can also find a list of approved sites on the DOJ website <http://ag.ca.gov/fingerprints/publications/contact.php>.

Please keep in mind that the timeline for processing re/certification requests will vary depending on how long it takes to receive the background report from DOJ. We are encouraging EMT's to allow at least 4-6 weeks for processing to ensure that their certification does not lapse. You will need to have your LiveScan completed before you submit any re/certification paperwork to our office, application packets received without proof of LiveScan will be returned.

If you should have any additional questions, please contact me at [wendy@northcoastems.com](mailto:wendy@northcoastems.com) or go to the State EMS Authority's web site [www.emsa.ca.gov](http://www.emsa.ca.gov). ]