

Memorandum #02-16

Date: April 28, 2016

To: SOUTHERN NEVADA DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH

From: John Hammond, BS, Paramedic, EMS & Trauma System Manager
Michael D. Johnson, PhD, Director of Community Health
Joseph P. Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc, Chief Health Officer JPI/JW

Subject: Application by Clark County Fire Department for a Variance to District Emergency Medical Services Regulations Section 1100.200 "Staffing: Operation of Firefighting Agency Vehicles"

I. BACKGROUND:

Clark County Fire Department (CCFD) requests a Variance to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regulations Section 1100.200 to allow volunteers who do not hold an attendant license to operate an emergency vehicle for their rural fire departments located in Blue Diamond, Bunkerville, Cal-Nev-Ari, Cold Creek, Goodsprings Indian Springs, Logandale, Moapa, Mountain Springs, Mt. Charleston, Overton, Sandy Valley, and Searchlight. CCFD requests a Variance because of a critical shortage of volunteers in the rural communities.

Per NRS 450B.260 (Attachment D) the Board may prescribe lesser qualifications for specific geographical areas such as the rural communities listed in paragraph I. CCFD assures SNHD that the volunteer drivers will be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and use of the automated external defibrillator (AED). In addition, they will also be required to complete a Certified Emergency Vehicle Operations course prior to driving any CCFD vehicle. The volunteer drivers will be utilized as a "driver only" and will not be permitted to provide patient care, with the exception of CPR and the use of an AED.

II. RECOMMENDATION:

The Southern Nevada Health District's (SNHD) Office of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System (OEMSTS) has reviewed the application by petitioner CCFD requesting a Variance to EMS Regulations 1100.200. Based on the information provided in the petitioner's application, the SNHD OEMSTS staff recommends the issuance of a Variance with the provisions outlined above to allow the volunteer drivers to operate emergency vehicles, thereby enabling licensed attendants to provide lifesaving medical care which is often delayed or unavailable because of a lack of staffing. CCFD understands that the volunteers are prohibited from providing patient care, with the exception of CPR and use of an AED. We recommend that the Variance be issued for a two-year period. We believe the public health and safety, and the persons who may utilize the applicant's services would not be endangered by the issuance of this Variance.

JH:rp


Attachments:

- A. Public Notice dated 4/4/16
- B. 3/29/16 Letter from Chief Greg Cassell, Clark County Fire Department
- C. Emergency Medical Services Regulations Section 1100.200 "Staffing: Operation of Firefighting Agency Vehicles"
- D. NRS 450B.260

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Southern Nevada District's Board of Health on April 28, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. at the Southern Nevada Health District, 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, Nevada, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 439.366 and 450B.130 for the purpose of considering a request by petitioner Clark County Fire Department for a variance to District Emergency Medical Services Regulations Section 1100.200 "Staffing: Operation of Firefighting Vehicles."

All interested persons may appear at the hearing and submit data, views or arguments regarding the proposed amendments. Written data, views and arguments may also be submitted to the District Board of Health in advance of the hearing, addressed to the Chairman of the Southern Nevada District Board of Health at P.O. Box 3902, Las Vegas, NV 89127. The District Board of Health will consider fully all written and oral submissions on the proposed amendments prior to taking action thereon. Questions may be directed to Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma System at (702) 759-1050.



John Hammond, BS, Paramedic
EMS & Trauma System Manager


3-29-16

Date

Rae Pettie

From: Maggie Wimmer [mwimmer@reviewjournal.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 10:40 AM
To: Rae Pettie
Subject: cost quote hrg fire dept

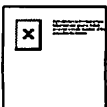
hi rae
here is partial copy
cost to pub \$147.12
will look for po before run date
thanks
maggie



**NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING**

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Fire Department

575 East Flamingo Road • Las Vegas NV 89119
(702) 455-7311 • Fax (702) 734-6111



Greg Cassell, Fire Chief

Kelly Blackmon, Deputy Fire Chief • Jon Klassen, Deputy Fire Chief • John Steinbeck, Deputy Fire Chief
Roy Session, Deputy Fire Chief • Jeff Buchanan, Deputy Fire Chief • Scott Webster, Deputy Fire Chief

"Responding with Integrity – Serving with Compassion"

March 29, 2016

Attention: John Hammond
EMS & Trauma System Manager
Southern Nevada Health District
P.O. Box 3902
Las Vegas, NV 89127

Dear Mr. Hammond,

The Clark County Fire Department (CCFD), Rural Division, would like to request a variance from the requirements listed in Clark County Emergency Medical Service's section 1100.200 "Staffing: Operation of an Ambulance," wherein the attendant licensure for operating an ambulance would be waived as long as the Healthcare Provider CPR and emergency vehicle operations classes are completed.

The regulation currently requires that the driver of an ambulance be medically qualified and licensed at the Emergency Medical Technician level as a minimum. We would like to request that the ambulance driver requirements for a rural fire department ambulance being operated by volunteers be amended to include an operational variance for a rural division fire department member who is trained at the CPR/AED level. This change would continue to uphold the requirement set forth "staffed by not less than two (2) attendants," and at no time would the CPR/AED licensed attendant be responsible for care of the patient in the ambulance.

The CCFD is requesting this variance due to a critical shortage of volunteers in our rural communities. Many times a rural division ambulance cannot respond to a call for service because there is only one qualified EMT available. Personnel must then respond as "first responders" without the benefit of all their medical equipment. Often, there are members available who are certified at the CPR/AED level who could, if this variance is approved, drive the vehicle with the qualified attendant to the scene. All members of the rural division are required to complete a Certified Emergency Vehicle Operations course prior to driving any CCFD vehicle.

During the last 12 months we have strived to reach 100 percent certification of our members at the CPR/AED level. Several of our rural stations are maintaining this objective, but others that

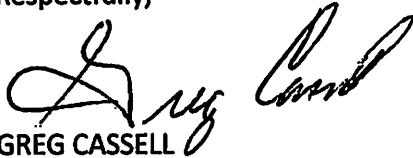
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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SUSAN BRAGER • CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI • MARILYN KIRKPATRICK • MARY BETH SCOW • LAWRENCE WEEKLY
DONALD G. BURNETTE, County Manager

are struggling with consistent membership are bringing our overall compliance to 80%. At no time would a CCFD vehicle respond without all members certified to at least the CPR/AED level.

We believe this variance would benefit the public we serve in these rural communities by allowing available personnel to respond to provide lifesaving medical care, which is often delayed or unavailable for up to an hour in some cases while an ambulance travels from Las Vegas to the rural area. This variance has been endorsed by all 13 CCFD rural fire chiefs and the CCFD EMS Division. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Casell", written in a cursive style.

GREG CASSELL
Clark County Fire Chief

GDC:jk

1100.200 STAFFING: OPERATION OF FIREFIGHTING AGENCY VEHICLES.

- I. Any Firefighting Agency Vehicle which is used to provide Emergency Medical Care shall be staffed by not less than two (2) Attendants.
- II. Any Firefighting Agency Vehicle which is used to provide Emergency Medical Care that can be provided by a licensed AEMT/EMT-I shall be staffed by not less than two (2) Attendants, at least one (1) of whom shall be Licensed as an AEMT/EMT-I.
- III. Any Firefighting Agency Vehicle which is used to provide Emergency Medical Care that can be provided by a licensed Paramedic/EMT-P shall be staffed by not less than two (2) Attendants, at least one (1) of whom shall be Licensed as a Paramedic/EMT-P.

NRS 450B.260 Operation of ambulance or fire-fighting vehicle used to provide medical care without licensed driver and attendant; exceptions.

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the public or private owner of an ambulance or air ambulance or a fire-fighting agency which owns a vehicle used in providing medical care at the scene of an emergency shall not permit its operation and use by any person not licensed under this chapter.
2. An ambulance carrying a sick or injured patient must be occupied by a driver and an attendant, each of whom is licensed as an attendant pursuant to this chapter or exempt from licensing pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 450B.160, except in geographic areas which may be designated by the board and for which the board may prescribe lesser qualifications.
3. An air ambulance carrying a sick or injured patient must be occupied by a licensed attendant, or a person exempt from licensing pursuant to subsection 6 of NRS 450B.160, in addition to the pilot of the aircraft.
4. The pilot of an air ambulance is not required to have a license under this chapter.
5. A person who operates or uses a vehicle owned by a fire-fighting agency is not required to be licensed under this chapter, except that such a vehicle may not be used to provide intermediate or advanced medical care at the scene of an emergency unless at least one person in the vehicle is licensed to provide the care.

(Added to NRS by 1973, 1145; A 1985, 1699; 1993, 320)

April 13, 2016

Southern Nevada Health District
Board of Health
Attn: Dr. Joseph Iser
280 South Decatur Boulevard

Dear Board of Health and Dr. Joseph Iser:

I am enclosing a letter that I presented at the Searchlight Town Board meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Unfortunately, the Town Board is unable to write a letter of support in time for your Board Meeting on April 28, 2016 when the CCFD agenda item is presented requesting a *variance on staffing of operations of an ambulance in rural areas code Section 900.300*.

Please accept my letter respectfully requesting that you approve this variance. Searchlight is a very small town and has limited number of volunteer fire personnel and only two EMTs residing in Searchlight with one of them travelling extensively for work. The approval of this variance is critical to allow the townspeople to have the most expedient medical personnel response time. Many other town folk in attendance at the meeting leant their support to my cause and are hoping that you will grant the variance as requested. This is so important to me personally for my family's wellbeing living such a distance from the nearest hospital.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Colton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kim Colton
702-376-3602
kcbosnos@aol.com
675 US Highway 95
Searchlight, Nevada 89046

April 13, 2016

Dear Searchlight Town Board:

I am writing to request that you would write a letter in support of a variance coming in front of the Southern Nevada Health District related to the Clark County Fire Department (CCFD) emergency medical services staffing of operations of an ambulance in rural areas code Section 900.300.

The Southern Nevada Health District oversees the EMS procedures and protocols and currently the regulations require a minimum of two (2) licensed Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) to respond to a medical call which can cause delays in response time. The CCFD has a variance request item on the agenda for discussion at the April 28, 2016 Board of Health meeting. This variance, in essence, would allow one (1) EMT plus a driver who is CPR/AED certified, and has completed a fire department Certified Emergency Vehicle Operators Course to drive a department ambulance during a medical call in the rural areas.

I can personally attest to the strong need for Searchlight and other rural areas, to have this variance approved and in place as quickly as possible to allow for increased medical personnel response time. I thank you in advance for your support of this critical variance request for the rural areas. Please send your letter of support to:

Southern Nevada Health District
Board of Health
Attn: Dr. Joseph Iser
280 South Decatur
Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Colton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end of the last name.

Kim Colton, CPA
675 US Highway 95,
Searchlight, Nevada 89046

Cc: Southern Nevada Health District, Board of Health