

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for issuing First Responder certification in the San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system.

**AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.220;  
Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 1.5 et seq.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Emergency Medical Technician – I" or "EMT-I" means a person who has successfully completed a basic EMT-I course which meets the requirements of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 2 and has been certified as an EMT-I by an EMT-I certifying authority.
- B. "Emergency Medical Technician – II" or "EMT-II" means a person who has successfully completed an EMT-II training course that meets the requirements of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3 and has been certified as an EMT-II by a local EMS agency.
- C. "Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic" or "EMT-P" or "Paramedic" or "Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic" means a person who is educated and trained in all elements of the prehospital advanced life support and has been licensed by the State of California as a paramedic.
- D. "First Responder" means a person who has successfully completed a San Joaquin County EMS Agency approved first responder training program, has passed all required written and skills tests, and who has been certified by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.

**POLICY:**

- I. Initial Certification:
  - A. In order to be eligible for First Responder certification by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency an individual shall:
    - 1. Possess a valid First Responder course completion record or other documented proof of successful completion of an approved First

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2. Responder course or have documentation of successful completion of an approved out-of-state First Responder training course.
  3. Apply for certification within two years of the date of course completion.
  4. Pass by pre-established standards the written and skills examination approved by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.
  5. Be eighteen years of age or older.
  6. Complete an application and affidavit stating that the applicant is not precluded from certification as a First Responder for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
  7. Pay the certification fee established by the Board of Supervisors.
  8. Submit a copy of a current State of California Driver's License or Identification Card or Military Identification Card.
  9. Submit proof of current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillation (AED).
  10. Submit proof of affiliation with a recognized San Joaquin County first response organization.
- B. An individual who possesses a current and valid out-of-state First Responder certificate that meets the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Commission standards shall be eligible for certification upon fulfilling the requirements of subsections 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of paragraph A. above.
- II. Maintaining First Responder Certification:
- A. In order to maintain certification, a First Responder shall:
1. Possess current First Responder certification in the State of California.
  2. Obtain at least twelve hours of EMS continuing education from an approved EMS continuing education provider or successfully complete a twelve-hour First Responder refresher course from an approved training program.
  3. Submit a completed First Responder or EMT skills competency verification form.
  4. Complete an application and an affidavit stating that the applicant is not precluded from certification for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
  5. Pay the certification fee established by the Board of Supervisors.
  6. Submit a copy of a current State of California Driver's License or

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- Identification Card or Military Identification Card.
7. Submit proof of current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillation (AED).

III. Skills Verification:

- A. Skills competency shall be verified by direct observation of an actual or simulated patient contact. Skills competency shall be verified by an individual who is currently certified or licensed as an EMT-I, EMT-II, paramedic, registered nurse, physician assistant, or physician who shall be designated by an approved EMS training program, EMS continuing education program or EMS service provider. Each program or provider shall keep a current list of designated individuals on file with the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.
- B. Skills requiring verification of competency are:
  1. Patient examination, trauma.
  2. Patient examination, medical.
  3. Airway emergencies.
  4. Breathing emergencies.
  5. Automatic external defibrillation.
  6. Circulation emergencies.
  7. Neurological emergencies.
  8. Soft tissue injuries.
  9. Musculoskeletal injuries.
  10. Obstetrical emergencies.

IV. Certification Dates:

- A. The effective date of First Responder certification shall be the date the individual satisfactorily completes all certification requirements and has applied for certification. The certification expiration date will be the final day of the final month of the two year period, except in the following instances:
  1. If a person applies for certification based on the possession of a current and valid out-of-state First Responder certificate the expiration date shall be the same as the expiration date of the out-of-state certificate.
  2. For applicants meeting the requirements for maintaining certification greater than six months prior to expiration, the effective

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date of certification shall be the date the applicant satisfactorily completes all requirements and has applied for certification and the new certification expiration shall be the final day of the final month of the two year period.

V. Re-Certification After Lapse in Certification:

- A. Applicants who have allowed their certification to expire beyond six months but less than twelve months shall be required to complete an additional 6 hours of EMS continuing education for a total of 18 hours of continuing education.
- B. Applicants who have allowed their certification to expire beyond twelve months but less than twenty-four months shall be required to complete an additional 12 hours of EMS continuing education for a total of 24 hours of continuing education and shall pass the written and skills examinations required for initial certification.
- C. Applicants who have allowed their certification to expire beyond twenty-four months shall complete all of the requirements of initial certification including successful completion of an approved First Responder training course.

VI. Attachment A: EMT-I skills competency verification form, EMSA-SCV (07/03).