

February 18, 2011

Dear EMS Service Leadership,

The Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) Bureau has initiated the administration of the Certification of Emergency Medical Service Agencies regulation, (7.27.10 NMAC). We refer to this as the Certification of Medical Rescue Program, as these are primarily the services to which this regulation applies. In addition to medical rescues, emergency medical dispatch (EMD) agencies and special event EMS agencies (movie sets, public event stand-by, and others) are subject to this regulation.

Any agency subject to this rule must receive a certification from the EMS Bureau to continue offering services. A certification from the bureau indicates that the agency has met the standard set forth in the regulation. We are confident that the vast majority of agencies currently operating already meet these standards, and the EMS Bureau is committed to working with EMS agencies to assure the standards are achieved in all EMS agencies. Please remember that non-compliance with the regulation may result in a loss of eligibility for fund act monies, as well as other action.

Your service will be receiving a temporary certificate indicating that you are approved to continue your current operations. During this period of temporary certification, you will have the time to make your application for full certification and assure you meet the standards in the regulation. The temporary certification period will be good for up to two (2) years.

**The next step is for your service to apply for full certification, which requires your service to complete an application and submit the required fees. Please visit our web site at [nmems.org](http://nmems.org) to obtain the appropriate paperwork for submission.**

Over the coming two year period, the EMS Bureau will dispatch inspectors to each EMS agency. You will receive notification of an inspection a minimum of three weeks prior to the scheduled inspection. Once notified of an inspection, the Medical Rescue service will submit a fully completed initial certification application and payment of appropriate fees (unless the service has previously submitted an application). The inspection team will provide to the service information on deficiencies (if any) and recommendations. The Bureau will either approve a full certification based on the inspection findings or give a period of time to remedy any deficiencies and complete a re-inspection.

Upon the EMS Bureau's approval of an EMS agency's application for full certification, we will replace the temporary certificate with another certificate that will indicate full OH EMS Bureau certification of the service. Additionally, the service will receive certification decals for each of the agency's medical rescue vehicles.

More specific information can be found on the Frequently Asked Question form that accompanies this mailing. Additionally, you can always contact me at (505) 476-8214 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your service to the residents of New Mexico. We look forward to working with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Peggy Hesch  
Certification of Medical Rescue Program Manager  
Emergency Medical Systems Bureau  
1301 Siler Road BLDG F  
Santa Fe, NM 87507  
505-476-8214

Cc: Kyle L. Thornton, Chief; EMS Bureau  
Jan Elliott Region 3 Executive Director