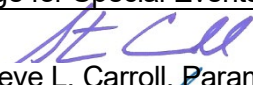



COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title: EMS Coverage for Special Events or Mass Gatherings		Policy Number 2132	
APPROVED: Administration:	 Steve L. Carroll, Paramedic	Date: December 1, 2023	
APPROVED: Medical Director:	 Daniel Shepherd, M.D.	Date: December 1, 2023	
Origination Date:	September 9, 2021		
Date Revised:	September 9, 2021	Effective Date: December 1, 2023	
Date Last Reviewed:	June 8, 2023		
Review Date:	June 30, 2025		

- I. PURPOSE: To establish recommendations for adequate EMS coverage at special events and/or mass gatherings occurring within the County of Ventura.
- II. AUTHORITY: California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.202, 1797.204, 1797.220, and 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100063, 100146, 100253
- III. DEFINITIONS:
  - Special Event: Any event associated with some level of planning leading up to the actual event taking place. For the purposes of this policy, EMS coverage for a special event will be recommended when daily attendance is expected to exceed 2,500 people. This threshold may be reduced in the event that planned activities include a greater potential for illness or injury.
  - Mass Gathering: An event, whether spontaneous or planned, that is associated with an increased risk of strain on the EMS resources and/or the EMS system within the County of Ventura. Examples of mass gatherings may include public demonstrations, protests, and/or civil unrest.
- IV. POLICY:
  - A. A special event requiring review prior to the issuance of a permit by a local jurisdiction and/or fire district or department should be reviewed for medical coverage and should meet the minimum coverage recommendations for the size and type of event, as outlined in this policy. These minimum coverage recommendations are included in Attachment A of this policy.
  - B. For special events or mass gatherings where daily attendance is expected to exceed 10,000 people or in any event where there is a significantly heightened risk for the health and well-being of special event/mass gathering participants and/or the surrounding community(ies), the Ventura County EMS Agency Medical Director, or his designee, should review and approve the proposed medical coverage plan.

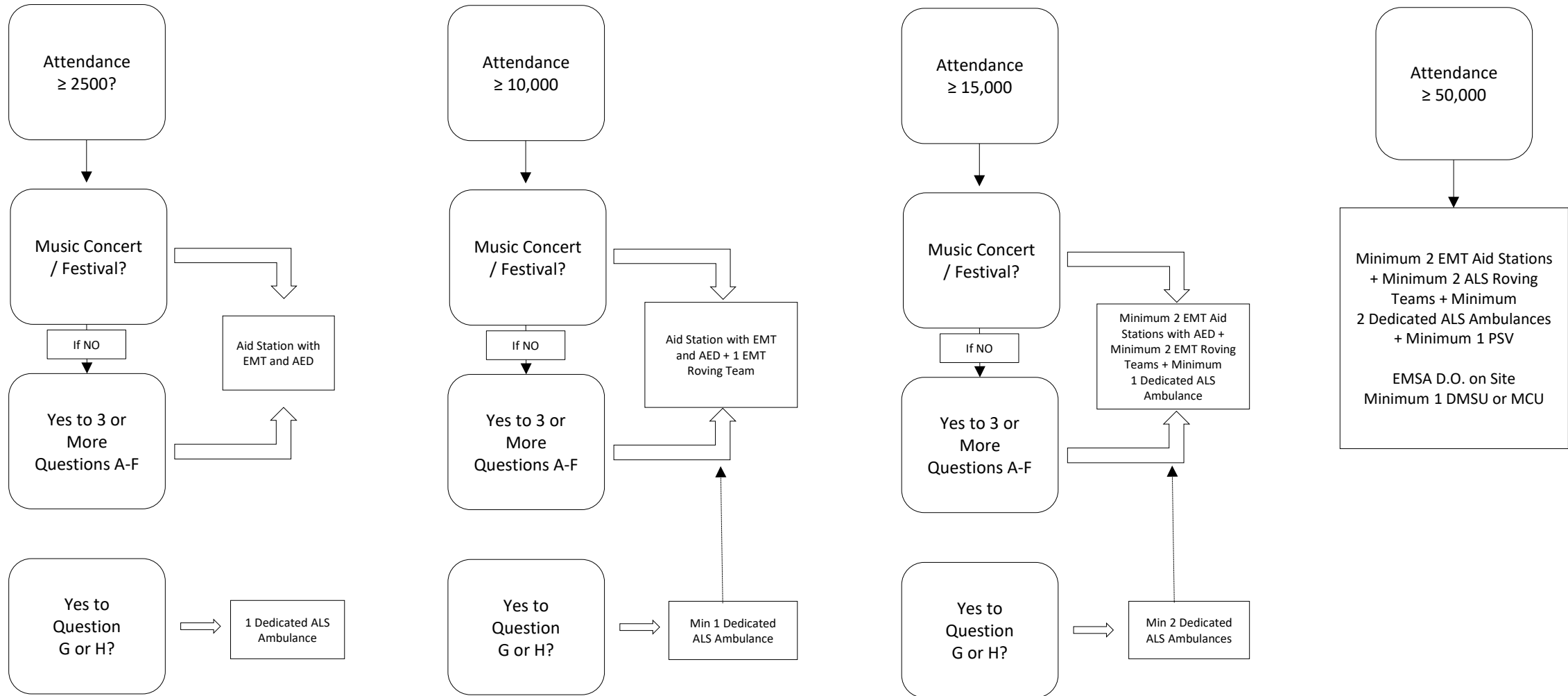
V. PROCEDURE:

- A. Special event and/or mass gathering medical plans should include the following:
1. Event description, including the event name, location and expected attendance;
  2. Participant safety (the safety plan for the event participants and spectators);
  3. Non-participant safety (the safety plan for individuals not participating in, but affected by the event such as neighboring local residents and onlookers);
  4. Description of the following medical resources:
    - a. Personnel trained in CPR and in the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and in how to activate the 911 system;
    - b. Aid Station(s), as indicated in Attachment A;
    - c. Ambulances (ALS and/or BLS), as indicated in Attachment A;
    - d. Advanced licensed medical practitioners, as indicated in Attachment A
  5. A communications plan, including the names and contact information for the event organizers and lead personnel, as well as an on-site primary point of contact for the duration of the event. This plan will include method of communications (e.g. cell phone, two-way radios, etc.);
    - a. If the special event / mass gathering is being coordinated through a government entity, or a public safety agency, the communications plan should be completed on an Incident Radio Communications Plan (ICS 205) form.
  6. A multi-casualty contingency plan describing the ability to care for multiple casualties, and activate additional medical resources, should the need arise.
- B. Minimum Requirements for Medical Personnel
1. Basic Life Support (BLS)
    - a. On-site medical personnel will be minimally certified as an Emergency Medical Technician in the State of California.
    - b. If a Paramedic is equipped and utilized only to provide care at a BLS level, that Paramedic will be currently licensed in the State of California.
  2. Advanced Life Support (ALS)
    - a. Any Paramedic utilized for the purposes of ALS medical coverage at a special event or mass gathering shall be employed by a VCEMS approved ALS service provider, and shall meet all requirements outlined in VCEMS Policies and Procedures.

- 1) ALS Ambulance Services utilized for the purposes of special event or mass gathering coverage shall be licensed to operate within the County of Ventura, and shall be authorized by VCEMS, in accordance with VCEMS Policies and Procedures.
    - 2) ALS Ambulance(s) should be co-located with an aid station, when applicable
  - b. Medical plans outlining the use of advanced level practitioners (RN, PA, DO, MD) will be reviewed and approved by the VCEMS Medical Director or his designee.
- C. Submitting Special Event Medical Plans
  1. Medical plans for special events where daily attendance is greater than or equal to 2,500 but less than 15,000:
    - a. Permitting fire district / department should review medical coverage plan to ensure it meets minimum recommendations outlined in this policy.
  2. Medical plans for special events where daily attendance equals or exceeds 15,000:
    - a. Medical coverage plan should be submitted to VCEMS for review and approval.
      - 1) Upon receipt, VCEMS will review and return approval form (Attachment B) or request for additional information within five (5) working days.
- D. Unplanned Mass Gatherings
  1. Spontaneously occurring mass gatherings that present an increased risk of strain on the EMS system and/or public safety personnel should be met with an increased index of suspicion, as it relates to medical standby coverage, regardless of incident size.
    - a. VCEMS Duty Officer will be notified in all instances of unplanned mass gatherings that present an increased risk of strain on the EMS system and/or public safety personnel.
    - b. Personnel on scene will coordinate with law enforcement agencies to ensure that plans are in place and contingencies have been discussed in terms of tactical operations and forward-deployment of tactical medical personnel (TEMS-Specialist and/or TEMS-FRO), if applicable.

- E. Documentation of Patient Care
  - 1. Agencies operating within the formal VCEMS system will document patient care in accordance with VCEMS Policies and Procedures.
    - a. Depending on the type of event, and number of event participants, these requirements may be altered or reduced at the discretion of VCEMS.
  - 2. Organizations not operating within the formal VCEMS system will document patient care in a manner that is appropriate for the level of care provided to the patient.
    - a. For the purposes of QA/QI and medical system oversight, this documentation of patient care may be requested by VCEMS for further review and/or after-action reporting.
- F. VCEMS Duty Officer Notification
  - 1. VCEMS Duty Officer should be notified of any special event or mass gathering that has an expected attendance greater than or equal to ten thousand (10,000).
    - a. Request for duty officer notification may be made over the air or by contacting FCC.
    - b. Duty officer notification may also be made by emailing relevant incident information to [emsagencydutyofficer@ventura.org](mailto:emsagencydutyofficer@ventura.org). *Please note that this email address is only monitored during regular business hours, and it should not be used for emergent/urgent issues.*
  - 2. VCEMS Duty Officer will be on site for any event or mass gathering that has an attendance greater than or equal to fifty thousand (50,000).

# Attachment A: Minimum EMS Coverage Recommendations for Special Events/Mass Gatherings



## Questions

- A. High-risk activities such as sports, racing, etc.?
- B. Environmental extremes of heat or cold?
- C. Average age of crowd less than 25 or greater than 50?
- D. Crowd includes large numbers of persons with acute or chronic illnesses?
- E. Crowd density presents challenges for patient access or transfer to medical transport resources?
- F. Alcohol to be sold at the event, or a history of alcohol or drug use by the crowd at prior events?
- G. Past history of *significant* number of patient contacts at the event or patients transported to area hospitals?
- H. Event is greater than 15-minute ground transport time to closest receiving hospital?

## Definitions

- Aid Station:** Fixed location on site staffed by at least one (1) certified Emergency Medical Technician or higher, capable of providing emergency medical care within their defined scope of practice.
- Roving Team:** A team of two or more personnel at the EMT (BLS) or Paramedic (ALS) level with supplies and equipment for delivery of emergency medical care.
- Dedicated ALS Ambulance:** A ground ambulance staffed with at least one (1) authorized Level II Paramedic and one authorized EMT ALS Assist, capable of providing advanced prehospital care and transport to a receiving hospital. In the event the dedicated ambulance transports a patient from the event, an additional ALS ambulance will be moved in to cover the event until the original dedicated ambulance can return.

## Attachment B Special Event / Mass Gathering Medical Plan Authorization Form

In accordance with VCEMS Policy 132 – EMS Coverage for Special Events or Mass Gatherings, the Ventura County EMS Agency has reviewed the applicable medical plan for the events below and has determined that the plan meets minimum coverage recommendations, based on anticipated number of participants.

Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Event Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Event Location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Level of Coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<i>VCEMS Use Only</i>	
Plan Reviewed By:	
Plan Reviewed Date	
Additional Info Requested Date:	
Final Approval Issue Date:	
Approval Name/Title:	