

INTERIM POLICY OUT OF JURISDICTION RESPONSE BY FIRE DEPARTMENTS 'MEDICAL RESCUES'

DEFINITION

- **Medical Rescue:** A response (other than a Road Rescue¹) to assist the British Columbia Ambulance Service by accessing, treating, and transporting an injured person(s) to a safe location when specialized rescue skills and equipment are required.
- **Out of Jurisdiction Response:** The service provided is outside the established municipal and/or fire protection area and is not covered under a mutual aid agreement or extended service by-law.

POLICY

1. The following support package is available to Fire Departments while providing out of jurisdiction 'Medical Rescue' services, subject to the conditions set forth in this policy:
 - a. Workers Compensation Board (WCB) or accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) coverage;
 - b. Exemption from civil liability;
 - c. Liability insurance coverage; and
 - d. Reimbursement for defined expenses.
2. WCB/AD&D coverage, liability protection and financial reimbursement are contingent on 'Medical Rescue' services being undertaken at the request of the ambulance service and are authorized by a task number assigned by the PEP Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC).
3. Pre-hospital care and transportation of injured persons remains the responsibility of B.C. Ambulance Service, 'First Responders' providing care under BCAS direction are provided liability coverage under the First Responder program

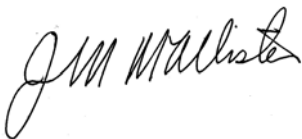
CONDITIONS

¹ Road Rescue is defined as 'A combination of rescue skills which may be called upon either individually or in combination in response to a motor vehicle accident, these include extrication of vehicle occupants, embankment rescue and/or fire suppression.'

4. A task number may be approved if the following conditions are met:
 - a. There is an actual or suspected imminent threat to life, or serious injury,
 - b. The request for assistance is made by the B.C. Ambulance Service, and
 - c. No PEP recognized Search and Rescue (SAR) group is available to respond within a reasonable timeframe, and/or does not have the specific training and equipment required.
5. Personnel responding must be trained and equipped to effect the 'Medical Rescue' in accordance with industry standards, and with due regard for the safety of responders and injured person(s);
6. The fire department is formally established through bylaw, and provided appropriate approval to respond outside their jurisdiction.

PROCEDURES

7. During a response requests for task numbers are made to the PEP ECC at 1-800-663-3456 on a 7 day a week, 24 hour a day basis. The request must include caller/agency name and contact information, known details of the incident and BCAS file number.
8. Personnel responding are to sign a Task Registration form (available from PEP Regional Offices or from the PEP website) for the specific response
9. On completion of response the ECC is to be called with confirmed details of the incident, number of personnel involved, and services rendered.
10. Within 60 days a completed Task Report, Task Registration form and Expense Reimbursement request are to be forwarded through the applicable PEP Regional Office.
11. Expenses for 'Medical Rescue' responses are to be claimed as of rates under PEP policy for Search and Rescue.
12. Should a responder be injured requiring WCB notification, while under a task number, the ECC is to be notified immediately and appropriate forms completed as per PEP policy.



Jim McAllister, Director, Management Services & Programs

Originally approved by: Bob Bugslag, Director

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