

Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol

SUBJECT: Prehospital EMS Aircraft
Classification

POLICY NO: A-875
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DATE: November 1, 2010

AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.201 and 1797.206; and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 8.

I. PURPOSE

To establish criteria for classification of Prehospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Aircraft Service providers operating within the County of San Diego EMS (CoSD EMS)

II. POLICY

All prehospital EMS aircraft operating within San Diego County shall be classified by CoSD EMS prior to operation. Reclassification shall occur if there is a transfer of ownership or a change in the aircraft's category. Classifications shall be as follows:

A. Air Ambulance

Any aircraft specially constructed, modified, or equipped and used for primary purpose of responding to emergency calls and transporting critically ill or injured patients whose medical flight crew has a minimum of two attendants certified or licensed in Advanced Life Support (ALS), one of whom is a Registered Nurse (RN).

B. Rescue Aircraft

An aircraft whose usual function is not prehospital emergency patient transport but which may be utilized for prehospital emergency patient transport when use of an air or ground ambulance is inappropriate or unavailable.

1. ALS Rescue Aircraft – A rescue aircraft whose medical flight crew has, at a minimum, one attendant certified or licensed in ALS.
2. Basic Life Support (BLS) Rescue Aircraft – A rescue aircraft whose medical flight crew has, at a minimum, one attendant certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with at least eight hours of aeromedical patient transport training.

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3. Auxiliary Rescue Aircraft – A rescue aircraft which does not have a medical flight crew, or whose medical flight crew does not meet the minimum requirements listed for the BLS Rescue Aircraft.