

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

An Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system that ensures prompt and effective emergency medical services to victims of motor vehicle collisions is an essential component of California's plan to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle collisions.

According to the 2008 SWITRS data, there were 11,928 persons in California who were injured as a result of a serious motor vehicle collision. Many of these individuals required emergency medical services at the crash scene. Many of these crash victims also required specialized rescue equipment and trained personnel to extricate them from their vehicles and/or the crash scene.

Current research and the experience of emergency physicians, trauma specialists, and other EMS providers, recognize that trauma patient outcomes are best when patients are identified, transported and cared for at a medical facility within the "critical hour." The "critical hour" has become a standard used to measure the effectiveness of many components of EMS. A recent assessment of California's Emergency Medical Services, conducted by the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), reports an effective EMS system requires and provides the following:

- Reliable and accessible communications.
- Adequately trained personnel.
- Life saving medical and rescue equipment.
- Safe, reliable, and rapid emergency transportation.
- Public information and education.
- Problem identification and evaluation.

II. ACTION PLANS

Adequately trained rescue personnel with access to appropriate and reliable equipment and vehicles are critical to an EMS system's ability to effectively care for victims of motor vehicle collisions. To meet this need, OTS plans to provide grant funds to full-time, paid-call, and volunteer EMS providing agencies to purchase and/or replace extrication equipment, air bag lifting systems, and to provide training. With California's vast rural areas, paid-call and volunteer EMS agencies benefit immensely from OTS funding for extrication equipment.

OTS plans to provide funds to continue work on the Statewide EMS Communications Plan. The EMS communications grant will establish and implement an up-to-date and coordinated EMS communication system pilot in Imperial and San Diego counties by replacing aging and outdated equipment and installing new communication technology to integrate existing systems.

III. TASKS

TASK 1 - PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION

This task provides for the necessary staff time and expenses incurred by OTS that are directly related to the planning, development, coordination, monitoring, auditing, and evaluation of grants within this program area, and the preparation of the 2009 Highway Safety Plan. Funding is also provided in this task for the printing of brochures and pamphlets, distributing literature and media materials developed through successful grants, or obtained from other sources. Assistance is also provided under this task to individuals to attend and participate in technology transfer workshops, training sessions, or educational meetings or conferences.

TASK 2 - FIRST RESPONDER SERVICES

Timely access to the appropriate equipment and medical supplies is essential to the EMS provider's ability to meet the needs of the motor vehicle collision victim. New automobile materials, technology, and alternative fuels create additional hazards and challenges for the EMS provider at the scene of a motor vehicle collision. Specialized equipment (hydraulic extrication tools, air bag lift systems, stabilization gear) and training can make the difference between a patient receiving medical treatment within the critical "golden hour" or not. Removal of a victim trapped in the vehicle can average more than an hour without appropriate tools; with the use of hydraulic tools, the average extrication time is 15 minutes. The goals of these grants are to improve EMS delivery to traffic collisions victims and to reduce response times for the arrival of appropriate equipment to the scene and/or the extrication of collision victims.

During the proposal process, an analysis was conducted of the 15 agencies that submitted proposals for extrication equipment. Priority funding was given to the following agencies that have not had a grant within the last 10 years. These agencies are serving as the host agency for three countywide regional grants by purchasing and distributing extrication equipment to city, county, and volunteer fire departments. The number in the () specifies the number of jurisdictions participating in the grant.

Grant #	Fund	Agency	FFY 2010 Funds
EM1001	402	Mariposa County (7)	\$236,072
EM1002	402	Madera (5)	\$218,000
EM1003	402	Oxnard (5)	\$181,222

TASK 3 - LIFE SUPPORT DELIVERY

There are currently no planned or continued grants in this task.

TASK 4 - DATA COLLECTION

There are currently no planned or continued grants in this task.

TASK 5 - COMMUNICATIONS

A reliable communications system is an essential component of an overall EMS system. Public access to emergency services is hampered in many areas by over burdened 911 systems, dead spots in wilderness and mountainous areas, and long stretches of highway with no access to telephone landline or cellular services. A variety of communications systems are currently in use (VHF, UHF, 800 MHz) in the state, many are outdated and unreliable. This variety of systems causes enormous problems with interagency operability. The EMS provider's access to reliable communication is critical to the safety of the EMS provider, effective deployment of resources and positive patient outcomes.

402

EM0341 - IMPERIAL VALLEY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PLAN PROJECT

The Local Emergency Medical Services Communications System Plan grant is continued into fiscal year 2010. Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority (IVECA) is implementing a plan for an intra- and inter-county EMS communication system to foster coordinated EMS communications between regions and counties, public and private providers, hospitals and public safety agencies in the area. IVECA also works with the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMS Authority) to develop a local EMS Communications Plan template that will be integrated into the State EMS Communications Plan and used as a model for local communications systems throughout the state. (\$416,848.68)

TASK 6 - TRAINING

There are currently no planned or continued grants in this task.

TASK 7 - PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

There are currently no planned or continued grants in this task.