

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

Rescinded

NUMBER: 11-17

November 7, 2011

TO: All MCFRS Personnel
FROM: Fire Chief Richard R. Bowers
SUBJECT: Medic Riding Requirements

It is the goal of MCFRS to have all personnel below the rank of Battalion Chief who maintain ALS certification to actively utilize those skills in a field setting. The Medical Director and MCFRS Leadership, consistent with the national literature on skills maintenance, wants ALS providers to keep an active practice in their field despite frequent focus elsewhere in the service. As such, the expectation is that every ALS provider, notwithstanding assignment, must engage in the complete patient encounter, which includes the initial patient contact through transfer to hospital staff, with appropriate documentation.

MCFRS requires all ALS credentialed personnel, career and volunteer, in the rank of Captain or below to complete 24 hours on an ALS transport unit, unless stipulated below:

Master Firefighters, Lieutenants and Captains assigned to the Division of Operations with ALS credentials who have accrued at least 96 hours on an AFRA in a given calendar month will receive credit for meeting their monthly ALS Riding Requirements.

Career ALS credentialed personnel who work a 2080 hour work year must complete 20 hours per month on an ALS transport unit, this total has been prorated to the shorter work week.

Station Officers are required to verify and enter Medic Riding Times for personnel into the Firehouse database at the conclusion of the Officer's tour of duty. Instructions for this data entry can be found in Attachment 1 as well as on the EMS Quicklinks webpage. Riding times will be monitored by the EMS AC or designee.

A waiver of this requirement may only be granted by the EMS Medical Director. All waiver requests must be received by the EMS Medical Director in the same month for which the waiver is requested. The disposition of such a request will be sent to the requestor and the requestor's chain of command. Waivers will be considered, for but not limited to, the following situations: extended illness, injury, leave of absence, administrative or light duty.

Individuals assigned to an EMS Duty Officer position, the EMS Quality Assurance Office, and the PSTA ALS Training Officer will be exempt from the requirement to ride an ALS transport unit or AFRA.

In addition to the above requirements and exemptions, ALS providers and Station Officers should be aware of the following:

- The station officer must assign personnel to guarantee AFRA service unless he/she has permission to deviate from this staffing mandate by the EMS Battalion Chief.
- Any ALS credentialed personnel may be assigned to ride ALS transport units to meet service needs.
- The Medical Director has the discretion to require the resumption of minimum ALS transport unit riding time for any ALS credentialed personnel as part of EMS Quality Assurance / Quality Improvement.
- Overtime and career standby (CSB) hours worked on an ALS transport unit in the month will be credited towards the minimum riding hours for that month. Additional work hours over one's minimum hourly requirement will not carry over to the next month.
- So as not to disrupt the work schedules of those personnel assigned to Divisions other than Operations, the scheduling of these mandatory hours will be the responsibility of the ALS provider. They must contact scheduling within the first week of each month and indicate which dates they will be available to be assigned to an ALS transport unit.
- If an ALS provider does not complete the minimum mandatory hours in a month, they will receive notification of such with the stipulation that the missing hours, as well as the next month's required hours, must be made up in the upcoming month. If the ALS provider fails to meet the minimum mandatory hours in 3 consecutive months, then they may be de-credentialed as a MCFRS ALS provider.

Questions may be addressed to the EMS Section Chief at 240-777-2453.