



**REGION 11
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM
POLICY**

Title: Alternate Response Vehicle

Section: EMS Personnel

Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium

Effective: December 17, 2025

ALTERNATE RESPONSE VEHICLE

I. PURPOSE

To define the scope in which the Region 11 Chicago EMS Systems will utilize alternate response vehicles.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Alternate Response Vehicle: Ambulance assistance vehicles and other non-transport vehicles.
- B. Ambulance Assistance Vehicle: Vehicles that are dispatched simultaneously with an ambulance and assist with patient care prior to the arrival of the ambulance. Ambulance assistance vehicles include fire engines, trucks, squad cars, supervisor cars, or chief's cars that contain the staff and equipment required under the EMS System Plan.
- C. Non-Transport Vehicle: Vehicles that are dispatched prior to the dispatch of a transporting ambulance. Non-transport vehicles include fire engines and trucks that contain the staff and equipment required under the EMS System Plan.

III. AMBULANCE ASSISTANCE VEHICLES

- A. Ambulance assistance vehicles shall not function as assist vehicles if the staff and equipment required under the EMS System Plan are not available. The EMS agency shall identify ambulance assistance vehicles as a program plan amendment outlining the type and level of response that is planned.
- B. The ambulance assistance vehicle shall not transport or be a primary response vehicle, but a supplementary vehicle to support EMS services. The ambulance assistance vehicle shall be dispatched only if needed. Ambulance assistance vehicles shall be classified as either:
 - 1. Advanced ambulance assistance vehicles and shall be staffed with a minimum of one Paramedic, PHRN, or physician and shall have all the required equipment;
 - 2. Basic ambulance assistance vehicles shall be staffed with a minimum of one EMT, Paramedic, PHRN, or physician and shall have all the required equipment.

III. NON-TRANSPORT VEHICLES

- A. Non-transport vehicles shall be staffed 24 hours per day, every day of the year. The vehicle service provider shall identify non-transport vehicles as a program plan amendment outlining the type and level of response that is planned.
 - 1. ALS Non-Transport Vehicles shall have a minimum of either one System authorized Paramedic or one PHRN, and one additional System authorized Paramedic, PHRN, or physician, and shall have all the required equipment; and
 - 2. BLS Non-Transport vehicles shall be staffed by two System authorized personnel unless the provider is functioning within IDPH's ambulance licensing requirements. The vehicle shall be staffed by an EMT or higher on all responses and shall have all the required equipment.



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IV. ADDITIONAL ALTERNATE RESPONSE VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

A. Equipment Requirements

1. Each vehicle used as an alternate response vehicle shall meet the equipment requirements, per Section 515.825.

B. Registration of Non-Transport Provider Agencies

1. Each non-transport provider shall complete and submit to IDPH either the EMS non-transport provider application or EMS non-transport application for an existing transport provider, available on IDPH's Division of EMS website.

C. Inspection of Non-Transport EMS Providers

1. IDPH will schedule initial inspections. Thereafter, non-transport ambulance assist providers shall perform annual self-inspections, using forms provided by IDPH and Region 11, and shall submit the forms to the EMS System for submission to IDPH upon completion of the inspection. IDPH and the Region will perform inspections randomly or as the result of a complaint.

D. Issuance and Renewal of License for Non-Transport Providers

1. Upon payment of the appropriate fee, qualifying non-transport providers shall be issued a provider license that lists a number for each level of care approved. Licenses will not be issued for individual Non-Transport Vehicles. Providers shall inform the EMS System and IDPH of any modifications to the application, using the System Modification forms (sys-mod). Licenses will be issued for one year and will be renewed upon completion of the self-inspection.