



**AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON
AMBULANCE COLORS AND MARKINGS
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2008**

The committee met in the Poplar Room, First Floor, Heritage Place Metrocenter, 227 French Landing Drive, Nashville TN. The start of the meeting was delayed twenty-five minutes due to delay of some members in traffic. Attending were

Committee Members:

Ken Wilkerson, Director, Hamilton County EMS, Committee Chair
Terry L. Arnold, Director, Carter County Rescue and EMS
Allen Lovett, Director of EMS Williamson Medical Center, Franklin TN
Dennis Rowe, Market General Manager, Knox Co. Rural/Metro Ambulance Service

State of Tennessee, Department of Health- EMS staff Members present:

LeeAnne Boeringer, EMS Consultant-South Central Region
Richard Land, Division of EMS, Director of Ambulance Licensure and Regulation

Other participants –

Ernest Qualls, Smoky Mountain Emergency Vehicles
Ricky Slack, Director, Smith County EMS
Kevin Spratlin, Memphis Fire Dept. (representing Mr. Thompson)

Committee member Lynn Thompson was on vacation.

Discussion commenced on the draft of proposed rule changes that had been prepared by Richard Land. These had been emailed to committee members and distributed by regional EMS associations and were developed as a result of the discussion of the April 29 meeting.

In response to a comment on these proposals, Chairman Wilkerson consented to Mr. Land's request to change the term in subparagraph (3)(a) "local EMS agency" to ambulance service licensee. Additional changes were discussed and proposed to better define the location of reflective striping and to specify reflective lettering on ambulances.

Mr. Rowe wished to include some language in Part (3)(d) 6. to allow lettering "identifying contracting arrangements for ambulance services."

Several emails had been received by Mr. Wilkerson and Mr. Land, and those were distributed in writing for review by the committee members. The recommendation from EMS Consultant John Dabbs to allow other than horizontal reflective striping was discussed. The committee wished to leave the requirement for horizontal striping, but noted that other variations of reflective stripes could be allowed if the amended rule was adopted.

In addressing implementation of the ambulance color and marking scheme, the committee suggested that the time of implementation for any service to modify its ambulance color and marking scheme coincide with license renewals. The time to modify vehicles in an ambulance fleet would be extended from six months to one year.

Public Comment

Ricky Slack, Director, Smith County EMS wished to comment for the record. Mr. Slack indicated he was attending on behalf of the thirteen county Upper Cumberland EMS Directors Association. He said his association wished to object to the proposed changes and maintain the existing rules (requiring a white ambulance with orange striping).

Mr. Wilkerson stated the committee appreciated this comments, and went on to explain why the ad hoc committee had been formed. The EMS Board Chairman believed that the board should “create an opportunity to allow change” in these rules, and that the General Assembly was prepared to enact even more legislation exempting counties from the Board’s jurisdiction over this matter if such changes did not occur. (Legislators from Memphis passed legislation in 2006 that had created a precedent, and another fire department in Sullivan County had obtained such an exemption this year.) Some counties had expressed wishes to change their color schemes, too.

The committee members then commented that there would be no requirement to change vehicles from the existing standards, except to add reflective lettering where indicated on new vehicles.

Committee’s Recommendation

Richard Land was requested by Chairman Wilkerson to revise the proposed changes to the rules and circulate them to the committee members. With no objections, Dennis Rowe and Allen Lovett both moved to submit the proposed changes to the board as the recommendation of the committee. The motion was seconded by Terry Arnold and all committee members voted aye. Upon the motion to adjourn, the chairman adjourned the meeting after 3:00 p.m.