



TRUCKEE MEADOWS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date: December 17, 2019

DATE: November 21, 2019
TO: Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners
FROM: Charles A. Moore, Fire Chief
Phone: (775) 328-6123 Email: cmoore@tmfpd.us
SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an Ambulance Transport Rate schedule for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District when transporting patients on Emergency Medical Services type calls. (All Commission Districts) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve an Ambulance Transport Rate schedule for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) when transporting patients on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) type calls.

PREVIOUS ACTION

None

BACKGROUND

The District entered into a Billing Contract Agreement with RPM billing, which is a local company that provides healthcare billing for various disciplines within the healthcare spectrum. The District has increased our mutual aid responses for EMS calls and is currently transporting patients to local area hospitals when necessary.

Every ambulance transporting agency in the region has a mechanism in place to bill for their services to allow for cost recovery. These expenses include personnel and training costs, medical supplies, vehicle maintenance, fuel, and movement of coverage apparatus.

After a review of the current Local rates, staff is recommending that we match REMSA billing rates as outlined in the attached proposed TMFPD Ambulance Billing rate sheets. There are a few small changes to include the addition of applicable mileage rates. Keeping our rates in line with REMSA will ensure an equality of cost when being transported by the District in area primarily serviced by REMSA and will disallow a perception of being charged based on where you live (In our District versus another fire agency that doesn't offer ambulance service but is being serviced by REMSA).

Below you will find current comparable rates within the region and definitions of each fee.

LOCAL AREA AMBULANCE BILLING RATES*

	BLS	ALS1	ALS2	SCT
North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District	\$ 604.92	\$ 991.59	\$ 991.42	N/A
Carson City Fire District	\$ 990.00	\$ 990.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,210.00
REMSA	\$ 865.00	\$ 865.00	\$ 1,234.00	\$ 2,492.00
Reno Fire Department	\$ 557.40	\$ 913.54	\$ 913.70	N/A

*Mileage billing rates are not included and may apply

Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport: Transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and the provision of medically necessary supplies and services, including BLS ambulance services as defined by the State. The ambulance must be staffed by an individual who is qualified in accordance with State and local laws as an emergency medical technician-basic (EMT-Basic). These laws may vary from State to State or within a State. For example, only in some jurisdictions is an EMT-Basic permitted to operate limited equipment onboard the vehicle, assist more qualified personnel in performing assessments and interventions, and establish a peripheral intravenous (IV) line.

Advanced Life Support, Level 1 (ALS1) Transport: Transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and the provision of medically necessary supplies and services including the provision of an ALS assessment and at least one ALS intervention.

Advanced Life Support, Level 2 (ALS2) Transport: Transportation by ground ambulance vehicle and the provision of medically necessary supplies and services including (1) at least three separate administrations of one or more medications by intravenous push/bolus or by continuous Infusion (excluding crystalloid fluids) or (2) ground ambulance transport, medically necessary supplies and services, and the provision of at least one of the ALS2 procedures listed below:

- Manual defibrillation/cardioversion • Endotracheal intubation • Cardiac pacing
- Chest decompression • Surgical airway • Intraosseous line.

Specialty Care Transport (SCT): Inter-facility transportation of a critically injured or ill beneficiary by a ground ambulance vehicle, including the provision of medically necessary supplies and services, at a level of service beyond the scope of the EMT-Paramedic. SCT is necessary when a beneficiary's condition requires ongoing care that must be furnished by one or more health professionals in an appropriate specialty area, for example, emergency or critical care nursing, emergency medicine, respiratory care, cardiovascular care, or a paramedic with additional training.

FISCAL IMPACT

Any receipts received will be deposited into the District's General Fund and used for Emergency Medical Services.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of an Ambulance Transport Rate schedule for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District when transporting patients on Emergency Medical Services type calls.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation a possible motion would be:

"I move to approve an Ambulance Transport Rate schedule for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District when transporting patients on Emergency Medical Services type calls."