

Concept Proposal for joint EMS-Fire Staffing Agreement

Problem Statement: Limited opportunity for fire paramedics to practice EMS skills and gain experience

Potential Solution: Deploy Fire Department paramedics on Ada County ambulances

Goal: Allow FD Paramedics to enhance their patient care experience and help maintain skills by staffing a full-time transport unit without changing the deployment configuration of the Ada County system transport units

Logistics:

Ada County Paramedics: Will provide and maintain the ALS transport unit, equipment and supplies. Will continue billing and administrative services. Will provide guaranteed exclusive minimum staffing of one (1) Paramedic for a full schedule rotation.

Fire Department: Will provide guaranteed exclusive minimum staffing of one (1) Paramedic for a full schedule rotation plus the associated training.

Fire Departments will be allocated one 24 hour slot on up to two (2) different ambulances in the Ada County system depending on fire department involvement. This unit staffing will be exclusive to EMS calls and will not be responding as part of the primary fire response in order to maintain the deployment strategy. The Fire Paramedic and the Ada County Paramedic will work side by side as partners on the ambulance.

Ada County Paramedics will compensate the Fire Departments for shift staffing provided at the Ada County Paramedics hourly rate on a monthly basis. This is necessary to stay within the existing budget. This is funded through existing vacancies slotted to staff the new Star EMS Station. Fire Departments will cover the paramedic's training time, time on fire apparatus, and other benefits.

Entry into the program:

- Letter of endorsement from the Fire Chief
- Letter of endorsement from the Ada County Paramedics Director
- Letter of Endorsement from the Medical Director of both agencies

Minimum Training Requirements:

- Ada County Standing Written Orders
- Ambulance Operations Course
- Practical skills lab sign off by medical director (at least annually)
- Emergency Vehicle Operators Course - Ambulance (at least annually)
- Report Writing

Create J.E.T.S. (Joint Education and Training Standards) Committee: One member from each ALS agency would meet on a regular basis (at least monthly, but as often as necessary) to assure standardization of education, training, skills maintenance, credentialing and testing of all ALS personnel within the system

Membership: (1) Training/Education Officer from each ALS agency
(1) Medical Director(s)
(1) Administrative assistance as needed

Results:

- 1) Allow predominantly non-transport based paramedics the opportunity to provide care to patients from time of contact until delivery to hospital and thus help maintain skills and experience
- 2) There would be no change in deployment strategy
- 3) JETS to ensure that Standard of Care is maintained across the county service area with all paramedic level providers
- 4) No new transport license would be necessary for Fire Departments as license for vehicle would be maintained by Ada County Paramedics. The funding of the positions described above is not available if existing ambulances are replaced by another transport agency.
- 5) Cost savings to Fire Departments considering a transport license by not having to purchase and maintain a transport vehicle and equipment while allowing the expanded educational goals
- 6) No fragmentation of the existing EMS system