



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	
OPR:13	
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**SUBJECT: TACTICAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SUPPORT TEAM**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the New Mexico State Police Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) Team and its utilization.

**2.0 POLICY**

It is the policy of the New Mexico State Police to maintain a Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) Team that may render service to support the New Mexico State Police in its mission to serve the state of New Mexico.

Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the tactical solution to an operation. In the event that manpower and/or tactical considerations place the TEMS Medic in a position where they are unable to provide medical coordination or medical care, the New Mexico State Police may utilize any available EMS resources for outer perimeter medical support.

**3.0 APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all commissioned members of the New Mexico State Police and auxiliary members of the TEMS Team.

**4.0 REFERENCES**

- A. NMAC 16.19.24 – Occupational and Professional Licensing Pharmacists Emergency Medical Services Dangerous Drugs**
- B. NMAC 7.27.2 Licensing of Emergency Medical Services Personnel**
- C. NMAC 7.27.3 Medical Direction for Emergency Medical Services**

**5.0 DEFINITIONS**

- A. Auxiliary Team Member** – A commissioned New Mexico Mounted Patrol Trooper who has successfully completed the testing requirements of the TEMS Team and been approved by the Team Leader and the Special Operations Commander. Their duties are assigned by the Team Leader or designee.
- B. Emergency Medical Technician Basic (EMT-B or Basic)** – A pre-hospital care provider regulated by the EMSB below the Intermediate level.
- C. Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate (EMT-I or Intermediate)** – A pre-hospital care provider regulated by the EMSB below the paramedic level.
- D. Medical Director** – A physician with specialized training in emergency medicine who, by law, oversees the training and practice of the EMS providers working under his license via written treatment protocols, case reviews, direct observation, and other training as applicable.

- E. Mission** – Any task authorized to assist or support the Department of Public Safety, other agencies, or the public at large with pre-hospital medical support.
- F. New Mexico Injury Prevention and Emergency Medical Service Bureau (EMS B)** – The regulatory and licensing agency for all levels of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) providers in the State of New Mexico. The EMS B is a branch of the New Mexico State government Department of Health (DOH).
- G. New Mexico State Police Tactical Emergency Medical Support Team** – (Herein after referred to as “TEMS” or the “TEMS Team.”) A specialty unit that provides pre- and out-of-hospital medical support for the Department of Public Safety and the public at large for the treatment of acute medical problems at the scene of New Mexico State Police operations and training evolutions in order to prevent or reduce morbidity and mortality during such events. These activities comprise the primary responsibilities of the TEMS Team, but the team is not limited to them. The TEMS Team operates under the direction of a physician Medical Director and the supervision of the Tactical Team Commander.
- H. Paramedic** – The highest level of pre-hospital care provider as regulated by the EMS B. Paramedics are trained in advanced medical procedures as outlined by their scope of practice and/or advanced special skills approved by the EMS B and their Medical Director.
- I. Tactical Emergency Medical Support Medic (TEMS Medic)** – A generic term to identify the medical support personnel specially trained to provide pre-hospital emergency medical support to DPS and the public at large. TEMS Medics are assigned to the TEMS Team. A TEMS Medic is not limited to any particular level of EMS training or licensure. Only TEMS Medics will be allowed to practice to their level of licensure as part of their duties as a state police officer.
- J. Team Commander** – For the purposes of this policy a Team Commander will be defined as anyone, regardless of rank, in charge of a previously organized group of commissioned personnel who are tasked to perform as a team in high-risk environments. Examples include, but are not limited to, the Tactical Team, Clandestine Lab Team, and Impact Teams of the Investigations Bureau. This does not include any *ad hoc* commanders of developing emergency incidents.

## **6.0 PROCEDURE**

### **A. General Provisions**

- 1. Team Organization** – The TEMS Team is assigned to the Special Operations Bureau of the New Mexico State Police Division.
  - a. Special Operations Commander** – A member of the chief’s staff who directs and supervises all specialty teams within the New Mexico State Police.
  - b. Tactical Team Commander** – A member of the state police appointed by the chief to direct and supervise the Tactical Team and its support elements.
  - c. Team Leader** – A member of the TEMS Team appointed to supervise and coordinate all operational and training activities, and reports to the Tactical Team Commander.

- d. **Assistant Team Leader** – A member of the TEMS Team appointed to supervise and coordinate all operational and training activities in the absence of the Team Leader. They report to the Tactical Team Commander.
  - e. **Team Member** – A commissioned New Mexico State Police officer who has successfully completed the application and testing requirements of the team, and been approved by the Team Leader, the Tactical Team Commander, and the chief. His/her duties are assigned by the Team Leader or their designee.
2. **Team Activation** – The following may activate a team mission:
    - a. The NMSP Chief or any member of his staff.
    - b. The Tactical Team Commander
    - c. Any TEMS Medic may provide non-mission medical support at any time during the course of their daily duties.
  3. **Team Applicant Pre-Qualification Criteria**
    - a. Completion of one year of satisfactory service as a state police officer.
    - b. A satisfactory work record.
    - c. Two years of clinical experience as an EMT-B, EMT-I or Paramedic
    - d. Current license as an EMT-B, EMT-I or Paramedic issued by the EMSB.
    - e. Auxiliary members are exempt from requirement “a,” but must be in good standing with the New Mexico Mounted Patrol.
  4. **Testing and Selection** – Applicants must satisfactorily complete the following testing criteria in order to be considered for TEMS:
    - a. Traverse three miles carrying a 45 pound pack while wearing the Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) with boots. This must be completed in 45 minutes or less.
    - b. Complete 1.5 mile run, sit-ups, and push-ups with 60% Cooper Standards.
    - c. Complete to the satisfaction of the Team Leader and the Medical Director one trauma patient assessment scenario and one medical patient assessment scenario according to U.S. Department of Transportation curriculum for patient assessment to their level of EMS licensure.
  5. **Membership** – Team membership constitutes an exempt status and members serve at the pleasure of the NMSP Chief.
- B. Training** – Training is an intricate and necessary part of maintaining the efficiency, safety, and readiness level of TEMS. It is necessary to train in the environments and conditions that will be encountered during missions.
1. **Initial Training** – All new members will attend an established TEMS training program.
  2. **Refresher Training** – Bi-annual training event that meets or exceeds the continuing education and re-licensure requirements for EMSB.

3. **Tactical Team Training** – Training with the Tactical Team in accordance with the Tactical Team training schedule.
4. **Maintenance Training** – The team members should conduct hands on physical assessments and treatment of actual patients in a clinical environment for the purposes of maintaining proficiency with perishable skills and establishing relationships with allied healthcare agencies and personnel.

**C. Duties and Responsibilities**

1. **TEMS Team Leader**

- a. Report directly to the Tactical Team Commander on matters regarding the team.
- b. Manage and coordinate TEMS Team operations, training, and resources.
- c. Point of contact between the TEMS Team and EMSB.
- d. Maintain and update records of training, missions, supplies, personnel (regular and auxiliary), and resources for the TEMS Team.

2. **Assistant Team Leader**

- a. Report directly to the Team Leader on matters concerning the team.
- b. Shall be acting Team Leader in the absence of the Team Leader.

3. **Team and Auxiliary Members**

- a. Report directly to either the Team Leader or the Assistant Team Leader.
- b. Responsible for notification and coordination of EMS resources for the event.
- c. Follow instructions and carry out tasks assigned by the Team Leader or Assistant Team Leader, or if on a mission, the incident commander.
- d. Responsible for care and maintenance of issued equipment, and the immediate reporting of unsafe equipment to the Team Leader.
- e. Responsible for maintaining good physical and medical skills, and familiarity with issued equipment, so as to be ready to respond when activated.
- f. Maintain familiarity with high-risk specialty team equipment and operational procedures, especially those which are pertinent to TEMS operations.
- g. Follow TEMS Team Standard Operating Procedures (see Attachment A) and Medical Director approved treatment protocols.

**D. Equipment** – Any department issued equipment will be maintained by the TEMS Medic in a serviceable condition.

1. An inventory of all department issued equipment will be submitted to the Team Leader on an annual basis.
2. All equipment will be inspected/checked/tested for serviceability according to standard operating procedures and/or manufacturers recommendations.

