

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

P. O. Box 942898  
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001  
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COSD CLERK OF THE BOARD  
2022 OCT 17 AM 10:08

October 7, 2022

File No.: 061.18438.16161.061 2022 10010

San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Coast Highway  
San Diego, CA 92101

Attention: Board Members Nora Vargas, Joel Anderson, Terra Lawson-Remer, Nathan Fletcher,  
and Jim Desmond

Dear Board of Supervisors:

In October, 2021, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors requested an exemption from regulatory requirements. The request was granted by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), however, notification of the granted exemption may not have been issued. CHP, in accordance with Title 13, California Code of Regulations (Title 13 CCR), Section 1108(c), shall rescind the exemption for cause to issue a new exemption to begin a new two-year term of exemption.

In accordance with the provisions of Title 13 CCR, Section 1108(a), the California Highway Patrol grants the following exemption from Title 13 CCR, Section 1103(e) to the companies named: American Medical Response, Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc., and Falck Mobile Health Corporation.

The above addressed emergency ambulance operators are hereby exempted from requirements to carry a spare wheel with inflated tire in their fleet of ambulances. This exemption applies only while the emergency ambulance operators have in place an effective alternate method to ensure the continued safe transportation of any ambulance occupants should the vehicle become disabled.



San Diego County Board of Supervisors

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This exemption is effective October 7, 2022, through October 6, 2024, unless rescinded or terminated for cause. This exemption is not transferable and shall expire upon change of ownership or control of the ambulance services. To avoid any delays or lapsed periods, requests for exemption renewals should be submitted a minimum of one month prior to the expiration date of this current exemption. A copy of this exemption letter shall be carried in each ambulance. If further assistance is required in this matter, please contact the Regulated Special Purpose Vehicle Coordinator of my staff at (916) 843-3340.

Sincerely,



A. D. POYNER, Captain  
Commander  
Research and Planning Section



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NORA VARGAS  
First District

JOEL ANDERSON  
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER  
Third District

NATHAN FLETCHER  
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND  
Fifth District

**DATE:** October 19, 2021

# 12

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

### SUBJECT

**COUNTY FIRE-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: EXEMPTION FROM SPARE WHEEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### OVERVIEW

California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 1103 requires ambulances to carry spare wheels with inflated tires of appropriate load rating and tools for wheel changes, while Section 1108 allows an exemption from these requirements upon a showing of good cause. Additionally, California Vehicle Code Section 2512 mandates an exemption for a period of not more than two years, upon request from the Board of Supervisors for reasons of public health and safety. Exemption from the spare wheel and tool requirements enables ambulances to carry additional medical equipment and supplies.

The Board previously requested exemptions on October 15, 2019 (6), which will expire November 26, 2021. Today's action requests continued exemption from the spare wheel requirements for ambulance service providers operating in San Diego County for the period of November 27, 2021 to November 26, 2023.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

#### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Approve, for good cause and in the interest of public health and safety, the action to request for exemption from the ambulance spare wheel and tools requirements for the period of November 27, 2021 to November 26, 2023 for the following San Diego County ambulance agencies, in accordance with California Vehicle Code, Section 2512, and California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Sections 1108(a) and (b).
  - a. American Medical Response, Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc., and Falck Mobile Health Corporation.
2. Authorize the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to forward the Board's request for exemption to: Department of California Highway Patrol, Enforcement Services Division, P.O. Box 942898, Sacramento, CA 94298-0001, Attention: Commercial Vehicles Section.

**SUBJECT:** COUNTY FIRE-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - EXEMPTION FROM SPARE WHEEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The San Diego County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office is committed to assuring that equity is considered in policy development, EMS resource availability, and EMS service provision in all areas where the County has jurisdictional influence and/or authority. Today's requested action removes unnecessary barriers for ambulance service providers to optimize space available in ambulance units for efficient and effective emergency medical service delivery in the County of San Diego.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendations.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

This board action was presented to the Emergency Medical Care Committee as an informational item at the September 23, 2021 meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Sections 1103(e) and (f) require that ambulances carry spare wheels with inflated tires of appropriate load rating and tools for wheel changes. Title 13, Section 1108(a) grants the Department of California Highway Patrol (CHP) discretionary authority to exempt ambulances from the requirements upon a showing of good cause. Section 1108(b) authorizes exemptions mandated by California Vehicle Code Section 2512 upon request from the Board of Supervisors, in the interest of public health and safety. Section 1108 limits exemptions granted under these sections to a two-year period.

Exemption from the spare wheel requirements allows ambulances to carry additional medical supplies and equipment necessary for patient care. Should an ambulance experience a flat tire, the closest available back-up ambulance is dispatched, minimizing delay in the transport of a patient.

The Board's most recent request for exemptions from the spare wheel requirements expires on November 27, 2021. The conditions creating the need for exemptions have been reviewed, and continued exemptions are necessary for public health and safety. Today's action, if approved, would seek to continue the exemption from the spare wheel requirements for ambulance service providers operating in San Diego County for the period of November 27, 2021 to November 26, 2023, enabling three ambulance service agencies responding to emergency medical calls to carry additional supplies to support patient care.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed action supports the Building Better Health initiative in the County of San Diego's 2021-2026 Strategic Plan by ensuring ambulance providers optimize space available in ambulance units to store patient care equipment and supplies in order to maximize emergency medical service delivery.

**SUBJECT:** COUNTY FIRE-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - EXEMPTION  
FROM SPARE WHEEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Respectfully submitted,



FOR

HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER  
Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 12**

**SUBJECT: COUNTY FIRE-EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES: EXEMPTION FROM SPARE WHEEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

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**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendations.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter