

To: Non-Transport Agencies

From: Travis Wilson, NRP, LI, EMS System Director

Date: 02/01/2021

Subject: Clarification of IDPH Rules

Agencies,

Historically, we have interpreted certain rules regarding non-transport vehicles in a very conservative manner. Upon discussions with the Illinois Department of Public Health, we wanted to clarify those rules. There are two designations for non-transport vehicles in Illinois

Ambulance Assist: Vehicles dispatched simultaneously with an ambulance and assist with patient care prior to the arrival of an ambulance (Section 515.825a)

Non-Transport: Vehicles dispatched prior to dispatch of a transporting ambulance. (Section 515.825b)

Within our EMS system, non-transport vehicles are designated by our system as “Ambulance Assist” vehicles. The rules state that “Ambulance Assist” vehicles shall not function as assist vehicles if staff and equipment required by this section (515.825) is not available. These vehicles are not primary response vehicles, but a supplementary vehicle to support EMS services. The type of vehicles require at minimum 1 personnel who is licensed at or higher than what the vehicle is licensed. For example, a First Responder vehicle must have one licensed first responder on the vehicle to respond to assist with Ambulance personnel. If dispatched out for breathing problems (as an example), the licensed vehicle responding must have at least one personnel on board at that licensure level or higher.

These vehicles may respond to non-medical calls without licensed personnel. For example, a fire engine can still respond to structure fires, odor investigations, down wires, vehicle accidents (to provide extrication) and other similar related fire calls. Additionally, the vehicles may respond at the request of EMS for things like life assist, or forcible entry without licensed personnel on board. Additionally, non-licensed personnel may provide CPR to any downed person they come in contact with, just as a lay person would. We recommend that at minimum, all personnel on the department be trained in CPR from the American Heart Association or American Red Cross.

This is based on guidance from IDPH.