

Policy Title: **SPECIALIZED EMS VEHICLES**

No. S - 2

Board Approval: 3/17/05

Effective: 5/1/05

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I. **POLICY**

- A. Special Emergency Medical Services Vehicle (SEMSV) Programs operate within an EMS System in much the same manner as any standard ambulance provider. Section 515.900 of the IDPH EMS Rules specifically concern SEMSV programs.
- B. Special EMS vehicles are generally classified as
 - 1. helicopter of fixed wing aircraft,
 - 2. watercraft, or
 - 3. off road SEMSV.
- C. These guidelines are intended to help NWC EMSS providers
 - 1. determine their need for SEMSV licensure; and to
 - 2. guide providers toward successful implementation of SEMSV programs.

II. **PROCEDURE**

- A. If a proposed SEMSV program meets the definition as stated in the IDPH Rules and Regulations (Sub-part A, section 515.100), a program plan must be submitted for EMS System approval. The EMS System must submit the approved application to IDPH for approval prior to implementing the program.
- B. The main points in defining a SEMSV program concerns the "primary intended" use of the vehicle with respect to the care and transport of patients. For example, a vehicle that is "primarily intended" for another purpose, such as rescue or fire fighting, would not be a SEMSV, while a similar vehicle may qualify as a SEMSV.
 - 1. A dive team boat is "primarily intended" for rescue, not transport or care, so would **not** be a SEMSV.
 - 2. A fire apparatus with EMS equipment (MedEngine) is "primarily intended" for fighting fires. The EMS equipment and personnel are used to enhance availability of EMS services until an ambulance arrives. The fire apparatus is **not** a SEMSV, but the EMS use should be included in the provider's program plan as a non-transport alternate response EMS vehicle approved by the System and IDPH. See Policy M9.
 - 3. A golf cart that is loaned to a provider for use during a special event, such as a festival, and is a temporary convenience not used directly for care or transport of patients is **not** a SEMSV. However, a golf cart owned or operated by the provider "primarily" for EMS use, especially if it is modified to accommodate emergency care and/or transport, **would** be considered an off road SEMSV.

Note: Transport includes transport to an ambulance pick up point, not necessarily to a hospital.

- C. In general, a provider that proposes a SEMSV program must meet the same requirements as any other vehicle service provider (Sub-part F, Section 515.800 - 830), plus any additional requirements that relate to the type of SEMSV proposed (Sub-part G, section 515.900 - 515.1000). A SEMSV program can be the entire program plan for a provider within the EMS System or it can be an addition to a provider's existing plan.
- D. The most efficient way to construct a SEMSV program plan is to follow the IDPH EMS Rules and Regulations format. By following the template, it is easy to ensure that all requirements are addressed. This allows for efficient EMS System and IDPH review for approval. Since EMS programs are always changing, following the IDPH format makes modifications and updates logical and simple to accomplish.

Policy Title: SPECIALIZED EMS VEHICLES**No. S - 2****Board Approval: 3/17/05****Effective: 5/1/05****Supersedes: 1/1/98****Page: 2 of 2****E. Suggestions to help keep the plan easy to follow and update:**

1. As an SEMSV program most likely concerns only one type of SEMSV, if a section does not apply, include the section heading and state that the section does not apply.
2. Address each item with specific information in each section that does apply. If a specific requirement cannot be met, state the reasons and request a waiver.
3. Many requirements call for additional documents. It is generally most efficient to create an appendix for each of these requirements and refer to the appropriate appendix when that item is addressed. An appendix can be updated more efficiently than the entire program plan.

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