



## **EMS DIVISION SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025 – 1:00 PM**

**LOMA LINDA-EOC 25541 BARTON RD, LOMA LINDA**

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### **AGENDA**

The CONFIRE EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2025, in the Loma Linda Fire Department Emergency Operations Center, 25541 Barton Road, Loma Linda, California.

Reports and Documents relating to each agenda item are on file at CONFIRE and are available for public inspection during normal business hours.

The Public Comment portion of the agenda pertains to items NOT on the agenda and is limited to 30 minutes; 3 minutes allotted for each speaker. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action may be taken by the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee at this time; however, the Committee may refer your comments/concerns to staff or request that the item be placed on a future agenda.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact CONFIRE at (909) 356-2302. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable CONFIRE to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible.

A recess may be called at the discretion of the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee.

Liz Berry  
1743 Miro Way, Rialto, CA 92376  
909-356-2302  
[lberry@confire.org](mailto:lberry@confire.org)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Flag Salute
- b. Roll call/Introductions

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

An opportunity provided for persons in the audience to make brief statements to the CONFIRE EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Meeting. (Limited to 30 minutes; 3 minutes allotted for each speaker)

### **INFORMATION RELATIVE TO POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Agenda items may require committee member abstentions due to conflict of interests and financial interests. CONFIRE EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Meeting member abstentions shall be stated under this item for recordation on the appropriate item.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

The following items are considered routine and non-controversial and will be voted upon at one time by the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee. An item may be removed by a Committee Member or member of the public for discussion and appropriate action.

- [1.](#) Approve the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Minutes of February 11, 2025
- [2.](#) Approve the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Minutes of May 13, 2025

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- [3.](#) Federal Legislation Impacts on GEMT - **DISCUSSION**

### **ROUND TABLE**

### **CLOSED SESSION**

4. Review and update Existing Litigation - 54956.9: AMR Lawsuit

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Next Regular Meeting: September 9, 2025 @ 1:00 p.m.

#### **POSTING:**

This is to certify that on August 7, 2025, I posted a copy of the agenda:

- 1743 Miro Way, Rialto, CA
- on the Center's website which is [www.confirer.org](http://www.confirer.org)
- 25541 Barton Rd., Loma Linda, CA

/s/ Liz Berry

**Liz Berry**  
**Clerk of the Board**



## EMS DIVISION SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 – 1:00 PM

LOMA LINDA COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 25541 BARTON RD. LOMA LINDA

### MINUTES

#### **EMS DIVISION SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Apple Valley Fire Protection District – B.C. Matthew Dowland  
 Chino Valley Independent Fire District – Leslie Parham  
 Colton Fire Department – Chief Ray Bruno  
 Loma Linda Fire Department – B.C. Mike Atchison  
 Montclair Fire Department – Acting Chief Ryon Dierck  
 Ontario Fire Department – Chief Mike Wedell  
 Rancho Cucamonga Fire District – Chief Augie Barreda  
 Redlands Fire Department – Carly Cripe  
 Rialto Fire Department – Chief Paul Truffa - *Absent*  
 San Bernardino County Fire District – **Chair**, Chief Joe Barna  
 Victorville Fire Department – Chief Bobby Clemmer  
 City of Yucaipa – Chief Grant Malinowski

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Flag Salute
- b. Roll call/Introductions

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

An opportunity provided for persons in the audience to make brief statements to the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee. (Limited to 30 minutes; 3 minutes allotted for each speaker)

*There were no requests to speak.*

#### **INFORMATION RELATIVE TO POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Agenda items may require committee member abstentions due to conflict of interests and financial interests. EMS Division Subsidiary Committee member abstentions shall be stated under this item for recordation on the appropriate item.

*No conflicts were announced.*

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

The following items are considered routine and non-controversial and will be voted upon at one time by the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee. An item may be removed by a Committee Member or member of the public for discussion and appropriate action.

1. Approve EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Minutes of October 8, 2024
2. Approve EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Minutes of December 10, 2024

*Motion to accept all items on Consent.*

*Motion by: Chief Grant Malinowski*

*Second by: Carly Cripe*

*Yes – 11*

*No – 0*

*Abstain – 0*

*Absent – 1*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

3. Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) – **ACTION ITEM**

*On December 5, 2023, the County of San Bernardino awarded CONFIRE the Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Services, Interfacility, and Critical Care Transport Services for Exclusive Operating Areas contract. The ambulance contract requires CONFIRE to develop and submit a COOP before the implementation of services.*

*The presented COOP comprehensively evaluates CONFIRE's operational capabilities, resource requirements, and response strategies. It establishes procedures and strategies needed to ensure that CONFIRE can continue providing EMS services during emergencies such as natural disasters, infrastructure failures, and significant disruptions.*

*Motion to approve the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the CONFIRE EMS Division as presented.*

*Motion by: B.C. Matthew Dowland*

*Second by: Chief Bobby Clemmer*

*Yes – 11*

*No – 0*

*Abstain – 0*

*Absent – 1*

4. Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – **ACTION ITEM**

*On December 5, 2023, the County of San Bernardino awarded CONFIRE the Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Services, Interfacility, and Critical Care Transport Services for Exclusive Operating Areas contract. The ambulance contract requires CONFIRE to develop and submit a EOP before the implementation of services.*

*The EOP presented is a strategic framework outlining the procedures and protocols for responding to and managing emergencies and disasters that could impact operations. The plan covers several critical issues, including triggers for activation, notifications,*

*communications, staffing, vehicles, equipment, and hospital and healthcare facility evacuations. The plan also identifies the EMS surge supplies needed for up to 5 days.*

***Motion to approve the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the CONFIRE EMS Division as presented.***

***Motion by: Carly Cripe***

***Second by: Chief Mike Wedell***

***Yes – 11***

***No – 0***

***Abstain – 0***

***Absent –1***

**5. Whole Blood Pilot Program – DISCUSSION ITEM**

*Many agencies are interested, but start up costs, logistics, and current ICEMA applications are hindering. The group designated Carly Cripe, Pam Martinez, Josh Stapleton, and Art Andres to discuss the topic further and report back.*

**ROUND TABLE**

*Discussion on new meeting location and time.*

**CLOSED SESSION**

*\*The EMS Subsidiary Committee entered Closed Session at 1:41 p.m.*

**6. Review and update existing Litigation – Government Code section 54956.9: AMR Lawsuit**

*\*The EMS Subsidiary Committee came out of Closed Session at 1:56 p.m.*

*\*No reportable outcome from Closed Session.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion to adjourn the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Meeting***

*The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.*

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Next Meeting: March 11, 2025, location to be determined.

/s/ Liz Berry

**Liz Berry**  
**Clerk of the Board**



## EMS DIVISION SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 – 1:00 PM

LOMA LINDA COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 25541 BARTON RD. LOMA LINDA

### MINUTES

#### **EMS DIVISION SUBSIDIARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Apple Valley Fire Protection District – B.C. Matthew Dowland  
 Chino Valley Independent Fire District – Leslie Parham  
 Colton Fire Department – Chief Ray Bruno - *Absent*  
 Loma Linda Fire Department – Chief Dan Harker  
 Montclair Fire Department – Acting Chief Ryon Dierck - *Absent*  
 Ontario Fire Department – **Vice** Chair, Chief Mike Gerken  
 Rancho Cucamonga Fire District – Chief Augie Barreda - *Absent*  
 Redlands Fire Department – Carly Cripe  
 Rialto Fire Department – Chief Paul Truffa - *Absent*  
 San Bernardino County Fire District – **Chair**, Chief Joe Barna  
 Victorville Fire Department – Chief Bobby Clemmer - *Absent*  
 City of Yucaipa – Chief Ron Janssen - *Absent*

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Flag Salute
- b. Roll call/Introductions

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

An opportunity provided for persons in the audience to make brief statements to the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee. (Limited to 30 minutes; 3 minutes allotted for each speaker)

*There were no requests to speak.*

#### **INFORMATION RELATIVE TO POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Agenda items may require committee member abstentions due to conflict of interests and financial interests. EMS Division Subsidiary Committee member abstentions shall be stated under this item for recordation on the appropriate item.

*No conflicts were announced.*

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

The following items are considered routine and non-controversial and will be voted upon at one time by the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee. An item may be removed by a Committee Member or member of the public for discussion and appropriate action.

1. Approve EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Minutes of February 11, 2025

*\*Item will carry to the next EMS Division Subsidiary Committee meeting due to lack of quorum.*

## OLD BUSINESS

2. Whole Blood Pilot Program – **DISCUSSION ITEM**

*Leslie Parham spoke on a regional approach to the Whole Blood Pilot Program. She stated that legalities will require each individual agency to have their own agreement. While looking to the future where more units would carry whole blood, the current goal is to get at least one agency up and running and then take appropriate steps to grow the program.*

## CLOSED SESSION

*\*The EMS Subsidiary Committee entered Closed Session at 1:16 p.m.*

3. Review and update existing Litigation – Government Code section 54956.9: AMR Lawsuit

*\*The EMS Subsidiary Committee came out of Closed Session at 1:29 p.m.*

*\*No reportable outcome from Closed Session.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion to adjourn the EMS Division Subsidiary Committee Meeting*

*The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.*


## Upcoming Meetings:

Next Meeting: June 10, 2025.

/s/ Liz Berry  
**Liz Berry**  
**Clerk of the Board**



## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** July 24, 2025  
**FROM:** Joe Barna   
EMS Subcommittee Chair  
**TO:** CONFIRE EMS Subcommittee

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**SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATION IMPACTS ON GEMT**

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Recent federal legislation, known as the "Big Beautiful Bill" (HR1), introduces new rules related to Medicaid provider taxes, managed care payment limits, and Medicaid enrollment oversight. While these provisions target national Medicaid financing practices, several elements may indirectly affect ground ambulance operations in California, particularly through their impact on hospitals, payer mix, and future EMS funding models.

Most importantly, California's Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program is currently not directly affected by the new provider tax amendments. GEMT is funded through certified public expenditures (CPEs) and intergovernmental transfers (IGTs), not provider taxes. Therefore, its structure remains compliant and sustainable under the new rules. There is no language in HR1 that eliminates or phases out GEMT; the program remains authorized and operational under current CMS approvals.

However, changes to Medicaid managed care "State Directed Payments" (SDPs) could affect hospitals that rely on these supplemental payments. A new cap at 100% of Medicare rates may reduce hospital revenue, especially for safety-net emergency departments. This could translate into reduced ED staffing and bed capacity, worsening patient throughput, and contributing to prolonged ambulance patient offload times, which in turn reduce unit availability and impact EMS system performance.

HR1's changes to Medicaid eligibility and fraud prevention are expected to reduce Medi-Cal enrollment. Based on our estimated 911 and IFT transport payer mix, Medi-Cal trips are projected to decline from 36.8% to 32.2%. Commercial and private pay volumes would increase, shifting our revenue sources. With Medi-Cal GEMT reimbursement remaining status quo, the conservative net financial impact for the CONFIRE ambulance service is a gain of approximately \$3 million annually, representing a 1.7% increase, primarily due to the growth in higher-paying commercial transports. However, this also increases exposure to less reliable private pay collections.

As an aside, Assembly Bill 1328, currently under consideration in the California Legislature, provides an opportunity to stabilize Medi-Cal reimbursement for non-emergency IFT transports for Medi-Cal patients. The bill authorizes DHCS to align Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for ambulance transports with the Medicare ambulance fee schedule, including geographic adjustments. If implemented and funded through the state budget, this would significantly

increase Medi-Cal payments for interfacility transports (IFTs), which are primarily reimbursed through fee-for-service and managed care. AB 1328 would improve revenue consistency and reduce cost-shifting burdens.

Recommended mitigation strategies include strengthening alternative destination protocols, expanding ECNS triage, exploring alternative transportation options, continuing to advocate for AB 1328, and contracting with care plans and hospitals for payer-of-last-resort programs.

Staff will continue to monitor both federal and state-level developments to ensure that CONFIRE EMS's financial viability and operational readiness remain protected.