



# Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

*Serving San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties*

*Virginia Hastings, Executive Director  
Reza Vaezazizi, M.D., Medical Director*

DATE: December 10, 2009

TO: All ALS Providers  
All BLS Providers  
All Air Ambulance Providers

FROM: Virginia Hastings

SUBJECT: **DEVELOPMENT OF AIR AMBULANCE EXCLUSIVE  
OPERATING AREAS (EOA's)**

The Inland Counties EMS Agency (ICEMA) is expanding the transportation component of its State mandated EMS Plan to include development of Exclusive Operating Area(s) (EOA's) for air ambulances. Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 4, 197.224 provides that a local EMS agency may create one or more EOA's in the development of a local plan if a competitive process is utilized to select the provider or providers of the services pursuant to the plan.

We are seeking your comments on system design and performance standards to include in a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select an air ambulance provider(s) to serve San Bernardino County. The California Code of Regulations defines an air ambulance as "any aircraft specially constructed, modified, or equipped and used for the primary purposes of responding to emergency calls and transporting critically ill or injured patients whose medical flight crew has a minimum of two (2) attendants certified or licensed in advance life support." These regulations include helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. The final RFP will include 9-1-1 transports and interfacility transports.

ICEMA and several local providers have participated in EMSA's Air Ambulance Task Force. The task force is developing guidelines for air medical quality improvement, landing zones and security, dispatch, monitoring, flight crew accreditation and authorization. Although these guidelines are still in draft form, it is highly likely that in developing RFP requirements ICEMA will plan to follow, at a minimum, State guidelines. However, these proposed guidelines, do not cover such issues as specific performance standards, e.g. response times, for selected providers.

All Providers  
December 10, 2009  
Page 2

Please forward comments/suggestions relating to air ambulance system design, performance standards, or other identified needs to [vhastings@cao.sbcounty.gov](mailto:vhastings@cao.sbcounty.gov) by January 8, 2010. Comments are welcomed from individuals, provider agencies, or provider groups.

Comments/suggestions will be compiled and provided to a stakeholder's committee for discussion before the Air Ambulance RFP requirements are finalized.

Thank you for your assistance.