

# TITLE 60

## AMBULANCE VEHICLES; AMBULANCE SERVICES; EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Chapter 823. Ambulance Vehicles; Ambulance Services; Emergency Medical Personnel

### Chapter 823

1993 EDITION

### Ambulance Vehicles; Ambulance Services; Emergency Medical Personnel

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## **AMBULANCES AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL**

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### **CROSS REFERENCES**

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Registration weight for ambulances, 803.430

Special regulation of ambulances and emergency vehicles, 820.300 to 820.380

Worker exposed to infectious disease, procedure, 433.407 to 433.423

**GENERALLY**

**823.010 Unlawful operation of unlicensed ambulance vehicle or unlicensed ambulance service; penalty.** (1) A person or governmental unit commits the offense of unlawful operation of an unlicensed ambulance if, on and after July 1, 1983, or the offense of unlawful operation of an unlicensed ambulance service if, on and after July 1, 1994, the person or governmental unit advertises or operates in this state a motor vehicle, aircraft or watercraft ambulance that:

(a) Is not operated by an ambulance service licensed under this chapter;

(b) Is not licensed under this chapter; and

(c) Does not meet the minimum requirements established under this chapter by the Health Division in consultation with the State Emergency Medical Service Committee for that type of ambulance.

(2) As used in this section, "governmental unit" and "person" have the meaning given those terms in ORS 823.020.

(3) This section does not apply to any ambulance or any person if the ambulance or person is exempted by ORS 823.030 or 823.230 from regulation by the Health Division.

(4) Authority of political subdivisions to regulate ambulance services or to regulate or allow the use of ambulances is limited under ORS 823.220.

(5) The offense described in this section, unlawful operation of an unlicensed ambulance or ambulance service, is a Class A misdemeanor. Each day of continuing violation shall be considered a separate offense.

(6) In addition to the penalties prescribed by subsection (5) of this section, the Health Division may impose upon a licensed ambulance service a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation of this chapter and the rules adopted thereunder. Each day of continuing violation shall be considered a separate violation for purposes of this subsection. [1983 c.338 §756; 1985 c.16 §361; 1989 c.782 §1; 1993 c.371 §1]

**Note:** 823.010 was enacted as section 756, chapter 338, Oregon Laws 1983; and is, therefore, part of the Oregon Vehicle Code. It is compiled in ORS chapter 823 for the convenience of the user and to keep like subject matter together.

**823.020 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Ambulance" or "ambulance vehicle" means any privately or publicly owned motor vehicle, aircraft or watercraft that is regularly provided or offered to be provided for

the emergency transportation of persons suffering from illness, injury or disability.

(2) "Ambulance service" means any person, governmental unit, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship or other entity that operates ambulances and that holds itself out as providing prehospital care or medical transportation to sick, injured or disabled persons.

(3) "Board" means the Board of Medical Examiners for the State of Oregon.

(4) "Division" means the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources.

(5) "Emergency care" means the performance of acts or procedures under emergency conditions in the observation, care and counsel of the ill, injured or disabled; in the administration of care or medications as prescribed by a licensed physician, insofar as any of these acts is based upon knowledge and application of the principles of biological, physical and social science as required by a completed course utilizing an approved curriculum in prehospital emergency care. However, "emergency care" does not include acts of medical diagnosis or prescription of therapeutic or corrective measures.

(6) "Emergency medical technician" means a person who has received formal training in emergency care, and is state certified to attend any ill, injured or disabled person. Police officers, fire fighters, funeral home employees and other personnel serving in a dual capacity one of which meets the definition of "emergency medical technician" are "emergency medical technicians" within the meaning of this chapter.

(7) "Emergency medical technician 1" or "EMT 1" means a person who:

(a) Has successfully completed an EMT 1 training course, or its equivalent as required by this chapter; and

(b) Has been examined and certified as an EMT 1 by an authorized representative of the division to perform emergency care procedures under written or oral authorization of a physician as approved by the board.

(8) "Emergency medical technician 2" or "EMT 2" means a person who:

(a) Has successfully completed all the requirements for certification as an EMT 1;

(b) Has successfully completed an EMT 2 training course or its equivalent as required by this chapter; and

(c) Has been examined and certified as an EMT 2 by an authorized representative of the division to perform emergency care procedures under written or oral authori-

zation of a physician as approved by the board.

(9) "Emergency medical technician 3" or "EMT 3" means a person who:

(a) Has successfully completed an EMT 3 training course or its equivalent approved by the division; and

(b) Has been examined and certified as an EMT 3 by an authorized representative of the division to perform emergency care procedures under written or oral authorization of a physician as approved by the board.

(10) "Emergency medical technician 4," "EMT 4" or "paramedic" means a person who:

(a) Has successfully completed an EMT 4 course or its equivalent approved by the division; and

(b) Has been examined and certified as an EMT 4 by an authorized representative of the division to perform emergency care procedures under written or oral authorization of a physician as approved by the board.

(11) "First responder" means a person who:

(a) Has successfully completed a first responder training course approved by the division; and

(b) Has been examined and certified as a first responder by an authorized representative of the division to perform basic emergency care procedures.

(12) "Fraud or deception" means the intentional misrepresentation or misstatement of a material fact, concealment of or failure to make known any material fact, or any other means by which misinformation or false impression knowingly is given.

(13) "Governmental unit" means the state or any county, municipality or other political subdivision or any department, board or other agency of any of them.

(14) "Highway" means every public way, thoroughfare and place, including bridges, viaducts and other structures within the boundaries of this state, used or intended for the use of the general public for vehicles.

(15) "Owner" means the person having all the incidents of ownership in an ambulance service or an ambulance vehicle or where the incidents of ownership are in different persons, the person, other than a security interest holder or lessor, entitled to the possession of an ambulance vehicle or operation of an ambulance service under a security agreement or a lease for a term of 10 or more successive days.

(16) "Patient" means an ill, injured or disabled person transported in an ambulance.

(17) "Person" means any individual, corporation, association, firm, partnership, joint stock company, group of individuals acting together for a common purpose or organization of any kind and includes any receiver, trustee, assignee or other similar representative thereof.

(18) "Prehospital care" means that care rendered by emergency medical technicians as an incident of the operation of ambulances as defined by this chapter and that care rendered by emergency medical technicians as incidents of other public or private safety duties, and includes, but is not limited to, "emergency care" as defined by this section.

(19) "Scope of practice" has the meaning provided in ORS 823.204.

(20) "Supervising physician" has the meaning provided in ORS 823.204.

(21) "Unprofessional conduct" means conduct unbecoming a person certified in emergency care, or detrimental to the best interests of the public and includes:

(a) Any conduct or practice contrary to recognized standards of ethics of the medical profession or any conduct or practice which does or might constitute a danger to the health or safety of a patient or the public or any conduct, practice or condition which does or might impair an emergency medical technician's ability safely and skillfully to practice emergency care;

(b) Willful performance of any medical treatment which is contrary to acceptable medical standards; and

(c) Willful and consistent utilization of medical service for treatment which is or may be considered inappropriate or unnecessary. [Formerly 485.500; 1989 c.782 §2; 1991 c.67 §224; 1991 c.909 §1; 1993 c.371 §2]

**823.030 Application of ORS chapter 823.** ORS 820.330 to 820.380 and this chapter do not apply to:

(1) Ambulances owned by or operated under the control of the United States Government.

(2) Vehicles being used to render temporary assistance in the case of a major catastrophe or emergency with which the ambulance services of the surrounding locality are unable to cope, or when directed to be used to render temporary assistance by an official at the scene of an accident.

(3) Vehicles operated solely on private property or within the confines of institutional grounds, whether or not the incidental crossing of any highway through the property or grounds is involved.

(4) Vehicles operated by lumber industries solely for the transportation of lumber industry employees.

(5) Any person who drives or who attends an ill, injured or disabled person transported in a vehicle mentioned in subsections (1) to (4) of this section.

(6) Any person who otherwise by license is authorized to attend patients. [Formerly 485.505; 1989 c.782 §3]

**823.040** [Formerly 485.510; repealed by 1989 c.782 §40]

**823.050** [1983 c.338 §976; repealed by 1989 c.782 §40]

**823.060 Licenses; form and contents; future responsibility filing.** (1) A license for an ambulance service or the operation of ambulance vehicles shall be obtained from the division.

(2) Applications for licenses shall be upon forms prescribed by the division and shall contain:

(a) The name and address of the person or governmental unit owning the ambulance service or vehicle.

(b) If other than the applicant's true name, the name under which the applicant is doing business.

(c) In the case of an ambulance vehicle, a description of the ambulance, including the make, model, year of manufacture, registration number and the insignia name, monogram or other distinguishing characteristics to be used to designate the applicant's ambulance vehicles.

(d) The location and description of the principal place of business of the ambulance service, and the locations and descriptions of the place or places from which its ambulance is intended to operate.

(e) Such other information as the division may reasonably require to determine compliance with ORS 820.350 to 820.380 and this chapter and the rules adopted thereunder.

(3) Except in the case of governmental units, the application shall be accompanied by future responsibility filing of the type described under ORS 806.270. [Formerly 485.515; 1989 c.782 §4; 1991 c.67 §225; 1993 c.371 §3]

**823.070 Issuance of license; duration; transferability; display; replacement; fees.** (1) When application has been made as required under ORS 823.060, the division shall issue a license to the owner if it is found that the ambulance service and ambulance vehicle comply with the requirements of ORS 820.350 to 820.380 and this chapter and the rules adopted thereunder.

(2) Each license unless sooner suspended or revoked shall expire on the next June 30.

(3) The division may initially issue a license for less than a 12-month period or for more than a 12-month period not to exceed 15 months.

(4) Licenses shall be issued only to the owner and only for the vehicle named in the application and shall not be transferable to any other person, governmental unit or vehicle.

(5) A license shall be displayed as prescribed by the rules of the division on the vehicle to which it applies.

(6) The division shall provide for the replacement of any current license that becomes lost, damaged or destroyed.

(7) A nonrefundable fee of \$45 shall accompany each annual application for a license to operate an ambulance. For those vehicles requiring a second or subsequent onsite inspection, an additional \$50 fee for each such inspection shall be charged until the vehicle meets the established standards.

(8) License fees do not apply to those vehicles described in ORS 823.030. [Formerly 485.520; 1989 c.782 §5; 1991 c.67 §226; 1993 c.371 §4]

**823.080 State Emergency Medical Service Committee and division to adopt rules regarding ambulance construction, maintenance and operation; compliance with rules required to obtain license.** (1) Subject to any law or rule pursuant thereto relating to the construction or equipment of ambulances, the division shall, with the advice of the State Emergency Medical Service Committee appointed under ORS 823.170 and in accordance with ORS 183.310 to 183.550, adopt and when necessary amend or repeal rules relating to the construction, maintenance, capacity, sanitation, emergency medical supplies and equipment of ambulances.

(2) In order for an owner to secure and retain a license for an ambulance under this chapter, it shall meet the requirements imposed by rules of the division. The requirements may relate to construction, maintenance, capacity, sanitation and emergency medical supplies and equipment on ambulances. Such requirements shall include, but are not limited to, requirements relating to space in patient compartments, access to patient compartments, storage facilities, operating condition, cots, mattresses, stretchers, cot and stretcher fasteners, bedding, oxygen and resuscitation equipment, splints, tape, bandages, tourniquets, patient convenience accessories, cleanliness of vehicle and laundering of bedding. [Formerly 485.525; 1989 c.782 §6]

**823.090 Division authorized to inspect ambulance vehicles and services.** The division or its authorized representatives may at reasonable times inspect ambulances and

ambulance services licensed or subject to being licensed under this chapter. [Formerly 485.530; 1989 c.782 §7; 1993 c.371 §5]

**823.100 Proof of financial responsibility required to obtain license; amounts; form of proof.** (1) In order to secure and retain a license under this chapter, the owner of an ambulance or ambulance service, other than a governmental unit, shall file and maintain with the division proof of ability to respond in damages for liability arising from the ownership, operation, use or maintenance of the ambulance, or arising from the delivery of prehospital care, in the amount of:

(a) \$100,000 because of bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident;

(b) Subject to that limit for one person, \$300,000 because of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident;

(c) \$20,000 because of injury to or destruction of the property of others in any one accident; and

(d) \$500,000 because of injury arising from the negligent provision of prehospital care to any individual.

(2) Proof of financial responsibility under subsection (1) of this section may be given by filing with the division for the benefit of the owner:

(a) A certificate of insurance issued by an insurance carrier licensed to transact insurance in this state showing that the owner has procured and that there is in effect a motor vehicle liability policy for the limits of financial responsibility mentioned in subsection (1)(a) to (c) of this section designating by explicit description all motor vehicles with respect to which coverage is granted thereby and insuring the named insured and all other persons using any such motor vehicle with insured's consent against loss from the liabilities imposed by law for damages arising out of the ownership, operation, use or maintenance of any such motor vehicle, and that there is in effect a professional liability policy for the limit of financial responsibility described in subsection (1)(d) of this section insuring the named insured and all other persons engaged in the provision of prehospital care under the auspices of the licensed ambulance service against loss from the liabilities imposed by law for damages arising out of the provision of prehospital care;

(b) A bond conditioned for the paying in behalf of the principal, the limits of financial responsibility mentioned in subsection (1) of this section; or

(c) A certificate of the State Treasurer that such owner has deposited with the State

Treasurer the sum of \$320,000 in cash, in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a commercial bank as defined in ORS 706.005 or in securities such as may legally be purchased by fiduciaries or for trust funds of a market value of \$320,000. [Formerly 485.535; 1989 c.782 §8; 1991 c.331 §141; 1993 c.371 §6]

**823.110 Form of insurance used to satisfy financial responsibility requirement; cancellation or termination; coverage; multiple insurers.** (1) When insurance is the method chosen to prove financial responsibility, the certificate of insurance shall be signed by an authorized company representative and shall contain the following information:

(a) The date on which the policy was issued.

(b) The name and address of the named insured.

(c) The policy number.

(d) The amount of coverage in terms of the liability limits stated in ORS 823.100.

(2) The policy of insurance for which the certificate is given shall not be canceled or terminated except upon the giving of 10 days' prior written notice to the division. However, an insurance policy subsequently procured and certified to the division shall, on the date the certificate is filed with the division, terminate the insurance previously certified with respect to any owner or vehicle designated in both certificates.

(3) The vehicle policy need not insure any liability under any worker's compensation, nor any liability on account of bodily injury to or death of an employee of the insured while engaged in the employment of the insured, or while engaged in the operation, maintenance or repair of a vehicle nor any liability for damage to property owned by, rented to, in charge of or transported by the insured.

(4) The requirements for a vehicle liability policy and certificate of insurance may be fulfilled by the policies and certificates of one or more insurance carriers which policies and certificates together meet such requirements. [Formerly 485.540]

**823.120 Bonds, letters of credit or certificates of deposit used to prove financial responsibility.** When a bond, letter of credit or certificate of deposit with the State Treasurer is the method chosen to prove financial responsibility, the provisions of ORS 806.090 to 806.120 shall be deemed to refer to bonds, letters of credit, certificates, deposits and rights and remedies accruing thereunder under this chapter except that the dollar amounts required for the bonds, letters of credit or deposits and subject to

the provisions shall be \$320,000 each respectively. [Formerly 485.545; 1989 c.782 §9; 1991 c.331 §142]

**823.130 Emergency medical technicians required to be certified; defense to charge of activity by uncertified person; exemptions from certificate requirement.**

(1) On and after September 13, 1975, it shall be unlawful:

(a) For any person to act as an emergency medical technician without being certified under this chapter.

(b) For any person or governmental unit which operates an ambulance to authorize a person to act for it as an emergency medical technician without being certified under this chapter.

(c) For any person or governmental unit to operate or allow to be operated in this state any ambulance unless it is operated with at least one certified emergency medical technician.

(2) It is a defense to any charge under this section that there was a reasonable basis for believing that the performance of services contrary to this section was necessary to preserve human life, that diligent effort was made to obtain the services of a certified emergency medical technician and that the services of a certified emergency medical technician were not available or were not available in time as under the circumstances appeared necessary to preserve such human life.

(3) Subsection (1) of this section is not applicable to any individual, group of individuals, partnership, entity, association or other organization otherwise subject thereto providing a service to the public exclusively by volunteer unpaid workers, nor to any person who acts as an ambulance attendant therefor, provided that in the particular county in which the service is rendered, the county court or board of county commissioners has by order, after public hearing, granted exemption from such subsection to the individual, group, partnership, entity, association or organization. When exemption is granted under this section, any person who attends an ill, injured or disabled person in an ambulance may not purport to be an emergency medical technician or use the designation "EMT." [Formerly 485.550; 1989 c.782 §10]

**823.140 Certificates to be obtained from division; form and contents.** (1) For any person to be certified as an emergency medical technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 or first responder, an application for certification shall be made to the division. The application shall be upon forms prescribed by the division and shall contain:

(a) The name and address of the applicant.

(b) The name and location of the training course successfully completed by the applicant and the date of completion.

(c) Certification that to the best of the applicant's knowledge the applicant is physically and mentally qualified to act as an emergency medical technician or first responder, is free from addiction to controlled substances or alcoholic beverages, or if not so free, has been and is currently rehabilitated and is free from epilepsy or diabetes, or if not so free, has been free from any lapses of consciousness or control occasioned thereby for a period of time as prescribed by rule of the division.

(d) Such other information as the division may reasonably require to determine compliance with applicable provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted thereunder.

(2) The application shall be accompanied by proof as prescribed by rule of the division of the applicant's successful completion of a training course approved by the division, and if an extended period of time has elapsed since the completion of the course, of a satisfactory amount of continuing education.

(3) The division shall adopt a schedule of minimum educational requirements in emergency care at the EMT 1, 2, 3 and 4 and first responder levels. A course approved by the division shall be designed to protect the welfare of ambulance patients and to promote the saving of the lives of such patients. [Formerly 485.555; 1989 c.782 §11; 1991 c.909 §2]

**823.145 Application fee; examination fee.** (1) A nonrefundable initial application fee shall be submitted with the initial application for EMT 1, 2, 3 and 4 and for first responder. In addition, a nonrefundable examination fee shall be submitted for the following purposes:

(a) Emergency medical technician 1 written examination and, if used, the actual fee charged by a national examination agency or other examination services.

(b) Emergency medical technician 1 practical examination.

(c) Emergency medical technician 2 written examination and, if used, the cost for administering a practical examination and, if used, the actual fee charged by a national examination agency or other examination services.

(d) Emergency medical technician 3 written examination.

(e) Emergency medical technician 3 practical examination and, if used, the actual fee charged by a national examination agency or other examination services.

(f) Emergency medical technician 4 written examination and, if used, the actual fee charged by a national examination agency or other examination services.

(g) Emergency medical technician 4 practical examination.

(h) Emergency medical technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 written reexamination.

(i) Emergency medical technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 practical reexamination for complete retake of the examination plus, if used, the actual fee charged by a national examination agency or other examination services, or a fee for each individual station retake.

(j) First responder written examination.

(2) Subject to the review of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the fees and charges established under this section shall not exceed the cost of administering the regulatory program of the division pertaining to the purpose for which the fee or charge is established, as authorized by the Legislative Assembly for the division's budget, as the budget may be modified by the Emergency Board.

(3) All moneys received by the division under this chapter shall be paid into the General Fund in the State Treasury and placed to the credit of the division account and such moneys hereby are appropriated continuously and shall be used only for the administration and enforcement of this chapter. [1989 c.782 §14; 1991 c.703 §42; 1991 c.909 §3]

Note: 823.145 was added to and made a part of ORS chapter 823 by legislative action but was not added to any smaller series therein. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

**823.150 Issuance of certificates; fees; provisional certification; indorsement certification; continuing education; renewal; driver license requirement.** (1) When application has been made as required under ORS 823.140, the division shall certify the applicant as an emergency medical technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 or as a first responder if it finds:

(a) The applicant has successfully completed a training course approved by the division.

(b) The applicant's physical and mental qualifications have been certified as required under ORS 823.140.

(c) No matter has been brought to the attention of the division which would disqualify the applicant.

(d) A nonrefundable fee has been paid to the division pursuant to ORS 823.145.

(e) The applicant for emergency medical technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 is 18 years of age or older and the applicant for first responder is 16 years of age or older.

(f) The applicant has successfully completed examination as prescribed by the division.

(g) The applicant meets other requirements prescribed by rule of the division.

(2) The division may provide for the issuance of a provisional certification for emergency medical technicians.

(3) The division may issue by indorsement certification for emergency medical technician without proof of completion of an approved training course to an emergency medical technician who is licensed to practice emergency care in another state of the United States or a foreign country if, in the opinion of the division, the applicant meets the requirements of certification in this state and can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the division competency to practice emergency care at the specified level. The division shall be the sole judge of credentials of any emergency medical technician applying for certification without proof of completion of an approved training course.

(4) Each person holding a certificate under ORS 823.140 and this section shall submit, at the time of application for renewal of the certificate to the division, evidence of the applicant's satisfactory completion of a division approved program of continuing education and other requirements prescribed by rule by the division.

(5) The division shall prescribe criteria and approve programs of continuing education in emergency care to meet the requirements of this section.

(6) The division shall include a fee pursuant to ORS 823.145 for late renewal and for issuance of any duplicate certificate. Each certification issued under this section, unless sooner suspended or revoked, shall expire and be renewable after a period of two years. Each certificate must be renewed on or before June 30 of every second year. The Health Division by rule shall establish a schedule of certificate renewals under this subsection and shall prorate the fees to reflect any shorter certificate period.

(7) Nothing in this chapter authorizes an emergency medical technician or first responder to operate an ambulance without a driver license as required under the Oregon Vehicle Code.

(8) No person shall be required to be certified under ORS 823.020, 823.140 to 823.150 and 823.205 to 823.215 in order to act as a first responder. [Formerly 485.560; 1987 c.90 §1; 1989 c.782 §12; 1991 c.909 §4; 1993 c.371 §7]

**823.160 Denial, suspension or revocation of license and emergency medical technician certificate.** (1) Licenses for am-

bulances and ambulance services may be denied, suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of ORS 183.310 to 183.550 for a failure to comply with any of the requirements of ORS 820.350 to 820.380 and this chapter or the rules adopted thereunder.

(2) The certification of an emergency medical technician may be denied, suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of ORS 183.310 to 183.550 for any of the following reasons:

(a) A failure to have completed successfully a division approved course.

(b) In the case of provisional certifications, failure to have completed successfully a division approved course.

(c) Failure to meet or continue to meet the physical and mental qualifications required to be certified under ORS 823.140.

(d) The use of fraud or deception in receiving a certificate.

(e) Practicing skills beyond the scope of practice established by the Board of Medical Examiners for the State of Oregon under ORS 823.205.

(f) Rendering emergency care under an assumed name.

(g) The impersonation of another EMT.

(h) Any reason that renders the applicant unfit to perform the duties of an EMT.

(i) Unprofessional conduct.

(j) Obtaining a fee by fraud or misrepresentation.

(k) Habitual or excessive use of intoxicants or drugs.

(L) The presence of a mental disorder that demonstrably affects an EMT's performance, as certified by two psychiatrists retained by the division.

(m) Subject to ORS 670.280, conviction of any criminal offense. A copy of the record of conviction, certified to by the clerk of the court entering the conviction, shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction.

(n) Suspension or revocation of an emergency medical technician certificate issued by another state:

(A) For a reason which would permit the division to suspend or revoke a certificate issued under this chapter; and

(B) Evidenced by a certified copy of the order of suspension or revocation.

(o) Gross negligence or repeated negligence in rendering emergency medical assistance.

(p) Rendering emergency care without being certified except as provided in ORS 30.800.

(q) Rendering emergency care as an EMT 1, 2, 3 or 4 without written authorization and standing orders from a supervising physician who has been approved by the board in accordance with ORS 823.205.

(r) Refusing an invitation for an informal interview with the division as specified in this chapter.

(3) The division may investigate any evidence which appears to show that an EMT certified by the division is or may be medically incompetent or is or may be guilty of unprofessional or dishonorable conduct or is or may be mentally or physically unable to safely function as an EMT.

(4) Any health care facility licensed under ORS 441.015 to 441.087 and 441.820, any medical or osteopathic physician licensed under ORS chapter 677, any owner of an ambulance licensed under this chapter, or any EMT certified under this chapter shall report to the division any information the person may have which appears to show that an EMT is or may be medically incompetent or is or may be guilty of unprofessional or dishonorable conduct or is or may be mentally or physically unable to safely function as an EMT.

(5) If, in the opinion of the division, it appears such information provided to it under provisions of this section is or may be true, the division may request an informal interview with the EMT.

(6) Information provided to the division pursuant to this section is confidential and shall not be subject to public disclosure, nor shall it be admissible as evidence in any judicial proceeding.

(7) Any person who reports or provides information to the division under this section and who provides information in good faith shall not be subject to an action for civil damage as a result thereof. [Formerly 485.565; 1989 c.782 §15; 1991 c.67 §227; 1993 c.371 §8]

**823.165 Discipline; civil penalty.** (1) The Health Division may discipline, as provided in this section, an ambulance service or any person certified as an emergency medical technician or first responder in this state who has:

(a) Admitted the facts of a complaint which alleges facts which establish that such person is guilty of violation of one or more of the grounds for suspension or revocation of a certificate as set forth in ORS 823.160 or that an ambulance service has violated the provisions of this chapter or the rules adopted thereunder.

(b) Been found guilty in accordance with ORS 183.310 to 183.550 of violation of one or more of the grounds for suspension or revo-

cation of certification as set forth in ORS 823.160 or that an ambulance service has violated the provisions of this chapter or the rules adopted thereunder.

(2) In disciplining an EMT or ambulance service as authorized by subsection (1) of this section, the division may use any or all of the following methods:

(a) Suspend judgment.

(b) Place the EMT or ambulance service on probation.

(c) Suspend the EMT certificate or ambulance service license.

(d) Revoke the EMT certificate or ambulance service license.

(e) Place limitations on the certificate of the EMT to practice emergency care in this state or place limitations on the license of the ambulance service.

(f) Take such other disciplinary action as the division in its discretion finds proper, including assessment of the costs of the disciplinary proceedings as a civil penalty or assessment of a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000, or both.

(3) In addition to the action authorized by subsection (2) of this section, the division may temporarily suspend a certificate or license without a hearing, simultaneously with the commencement of proceedings under ORS 183.310 to 183.550 if the division finds that evidence in its possession indicates that a continuation in practice of the EMT or operation of the ambulance service constitutes an immediate danger to the public.

(4) If the division places any EMT or ambulance service on probation as set forth in subsection (2)(b) of this section, the division may determine, and may at any time modify, the conditions of the probation and may include among them any reasonable condition for the purpose of protection of the public and for the purpose of the rehabilitation of the EMT or ambulance service, or both. Upon expiration of the term of probation, further proceedings shall be abated if the EMT or ambulance service has complied with the terms of the probation.

(5) If an EMT certified in this state is suspended, the holder of the certificate may not practice during the term of suspension.

(6) If an ambulance service licensed in this state is suspended, the ambulance service may not operate in this state during the term of the suspension, provided that the division shall condition such suspension upon such arrangements as may be necessary to assure the continued availability of ambulance service in the area served by that ambulance service. Upon expiration of the term

of suspension, the certificate or license shall be reinstated by the division if the conditions for which the certificate or license was suspended no longer exist.

(7) Whenever an EMT certificate or ambulance service license is denied or revoked for any cause, the division may, in its discretion, after the lapse of two years from the date of such revocation, upon written application by the person formerly certified or licensed and after a hearing, issue or restore the EMT certificate or ambulance service license.

(8) Civil penalties under this section shall be imposed as provided in ORS 183.090. [1989 c.782 §15a; 1991 c.734 §103; 1993 c.371 §9]

**823.170 State Emergency Medical Service Committee; qualifications, terms, duties and compensation.** (1) The division shall appoint a State Emergency Medical Service Committee composed of 18 members as follows:

(a) Seven physicians licensed under ORS chapter 677 whose practice consists of routinely treating emergencies such as cardiovascular illness or trauma, appointed from a list submitted by the Board of Medical Examiners.

(b) Four EMTs at least one of whom is an EMT 1 at the time of appointment.

(c) One volunteer ambulance operator, one person representing governmental agencies that provide ambulance services and one person representing a private ambulance company.

(d) One hospital administrator.

(e) One nurse who has served at least two years in the capacity of an emergency department nurse.

(f) One representative of an emergency dispatch center.

(g) One community college representative.

(2) No more than four members shall be residents of the same congressional district at the time of appointment.

(3) Appointments shall be made for a term of four years in a manner to preserve insofar as possible the representation of the organization described in subsection (1) of this section. Vacancies shall be filled for any unexpired term as soon as the division can make such appointments. The committee shall choose its own chairperson and shall meet at the call of the chairperson or the division administrator.

(4) The State Emergency Medical Service Committee shall advise the division concerning the adoption, amendment and repeal of rules authorized by this chapter.

(5) The chairperson of the committee shall appoint a subcommittee on EMT certification and discipline, consisting of five physicians and four EMTs. The subcommittee shall advise the division and the board on the adoption, amendment, repeal and application of rules concerning ORS 823.130 to 823.160 and 823.205. The decisions of this subcommittee shall not be subject to the review of the full State Emergency Medical Service Committee.

(6) Members are entitled to compensation as provided in ORS 292.495. [Formerly 485.570; 1989 c.782 §16]

**823.180 County plan for ambulance and emergency medical services.** (1) Each county shall develop a plan for the county or two or more contiguous counties may develop a plan relating to the need for and coordination of ambulance services and establish one or more ambulance service areas consistent with the plan for the efficient and effective provision of ambulance services.

(2) Each person, city or rural fire protection district within the county that provides or desires to provide ambulance services shall notify the county in writing if the person, city or district wants to be consulted prior to the adoption or amendment of a county plan for ambulance services.

(3) Prior to adopting or amending a plan under subsection (1) of this section, a county shall notify each person, city or district that notified the county under subsection (2) of this section of its desire to be consulted. The county governing body shall consult with and seek advice from such persons, cities and districts with regard to the plan and to the boundaries of any ambulance service areas established under the plan. After such consultation, the county shall adopt or amend a plan in the same manner as the county enacts nonemergency ordinances.

(4) Any plan developed and any service area established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall be submitted to the Health Division.

(5) The division, in consultation with the appropriate bodies specified in subsection (1) of this section, shall adopt rules pursuant to ORS 183.310 to 183.550 that specify those subjects to be addressed and considered in any plan for ambulance services and areas under subsection (1) of this section and those subjects to be addressed and considered in the adoption of any such plan. The rules shall be uniform, as far as practicable, but take into consideration unique circumstances of local districts.

(6) The Health Division shall review a plan submitted under subsection (4) of this

section for compliance with the rules of the division adopted under subsection (5) of this section. Not later than 60 days after receiving the plan, the division shall approve the plan if it complies with the rules or disapprove the plan. The division shall give written notice of such action to the county and, when a plan is not approved, the notice shall indicate specifically how the plan does not comply with the rules of the division. The county shall modify the plan to comply with the rules and shall submit the modified plan to the division for review under this subsection.

(7) The rules adopted under subsection (5) of this section shall be enforceable by the division in a proceeding in circuit court for equitable relief.

(8) This section does not require a county to establish more than one ambulance service area within the county. [Formerly 485.573; 1989 c.722 §3]

**823.190 Rulemaking authority generally.** (1) In accordance with ORS 183.310 to 183.550, the division may adopt and may, when necessary amend or repeal such rules as are necessary for carrying out this chapter.

(2) The division is authorized and directed to establish appropriate rules in accordance with the provisions of ORS 183.310 to 183.550 concerning the administration of this chapter. Such rules may deal with, but are not limited to, such matters as criteria for requirements, types and numbers, of emergency vehicles including supplies and equipment carried, requirements for the operation and coordination of ambulances and other emergency care systems, criteria for the use of two-way communications, procedures for summoning and dispatching aid and other necessary and proper matters. [Formerly 485.575; 1989 c.782 §18]

**823.200 Rulemaking authority with respect to minimum requirements for vehicles and services.** (1) The Health Division, in consultation with the State Emergency Medical Service Committee, shall adopt rules specifying minimum requirements for ambulance services, and for staffing and medical and communications equipment requirements for all types of ambulances. The rules shall define the requirements for advanced life support and basic life support units of emergency vehicles, including equipment. The rules shall require that a person state-certified at or above an emergency medical technician 1 training level must ride in the patient compartment when a patient is being transported by a basic life support unit in emergency circumstances. The rules shall also require that a minimum of two persons, one state-certified at or above an emergency

medical technician 3 training level and one state-certified at or above an emergency medical technician 1 training level, must staff an advanced life support unit, and that the person state-certified at or above the emergency medical technician 3 training level shall ride in the patient compartment when a patient is being transported by an advanced life support unit in emergency circumstances.

(2) The Health Division may waive any of the requirements imposed by this chapter in medically disadvantaged areas as determined by the Director of Human Resources, or upon a showing that a severe hardship would result from enforcing a particular requirement.

(3) The Health Division shall exempt from rules adopted under this section air ambulances that do not charge for the provision of ambulance services. [Formerly 485.577; 1987 c.660 §26; 1989 c.782 §19; 1993 c.371 §10]

**823.204 Definitions for ORS 823.204 and 823.205.** As used in this section and ORS 803.205, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Board" means the Board of Medical Examiners for the State of Oregon.

(2) "Emergency medical technician 1, 2, 3 and 4" have the meaning in ORS 823.020.

(3) "Scope of practice" means the maximum level of emergency care that an emergency medical technician may provide.

(4) "Standing orders" means the written protocols which an emergency medical technician follows to treat patients when direct contact with a physician is not maintained.

(5) "Supervising physician" means a medical or osteopathic physician licensed under ORS chapter 677, actively registered and in good standing with the board, who provides direction of emergency care provided by emergency medical technicians. [1989 c.782 §27]

**823.205 Rulemaking authority with respect to scope of practice of EMTs and first responders; qualifications of supervising physician.** (1) The Board of Medical Examiners for the State of Oregon shall adopt by rule a scope of practice for emergency medical technicians 1, 2, 3 and 4 and for first responders.

(2) The board shall adopt by rule standards for the qualifications and responsibilities of supervising physicians.

(3) The standing orders for emergency medical technicians and first responders may not exceed the scope of practice defined by the board.

(4) No emergency medical technician 1, 2, 3 or 4 shall provide patient care or treat-

ment without written authorization and standing orders from a supervising physician who has been approved by the board.

(5) The policies and procedures for applying and enforcing this section may be delegated in whole or in part to the Health Division of the Department of Human Resources. [1989 c.782 §28; 1991 c.909 §5]

**823.210 False statements and misrepresentations regarding license or certification prohibited.** (1) It is unlawful for any person or governmental unit to:

(a) Intentionally make any false statement on an application for an ambulance service license, ambulance vehicle license or for certification as an emergency medical technician or first responder or on any other documents required by the division; or

(b) Make any misrepresentation in seeking to obtain or retain a certification or license.

(2) Any violation described in subsection (1) of this section is also grounds for denial, suspension or revocation of a certification or license under ORS 823.160. [Formerly 485.580; 1989 c.782 §20; 1991 c.909 §6; 1993 c.371 §11]

**823.215 Requirements regarding use of titles and disclosure of qualifications.**

(1) No emergency medical technician 2, 3 or 4 or first responder shall use any title or abbreviation thereof without the designation "emergency medical technician" or "first responder" indicating the level of certification by the division. The technician or responder shall not mislead the public as to the qualifications of the technician or responder.

(2) The term "paramedic" may only be used as an explanatory term of the certified "emergency medical technician 4." [Formerly 677.675; 1991 c.67 §228; 1991 c.909 §7]

**823.220 Authority to enact local ordinances regulating ambulances and emergency medical technicians.** (1) As used in this section, "political subdivision" includes counties, cities, districts, authorities and other public corporations and entities organized and existing under statute or charter.

(2) An ordinance of any political subdivision regulating ambulance services or emergency medical technicians shall not require less than is required under ORS 820.300 to 820.380, or this chapter or the rules adopted by the division under this chapter.

(3) When a political subdivision enacts an ordinance regulating ambulance services or emergency medical technicians, the ordinance must comply with the county plan for ambulance services and ambulance service areas adopted under ORS 823.180 by the county in which the political subdivision is

situated and with the rules of the Health Division relating to such services and service areas. The determination of whether the ordinance is in compliance with the county plan shall be made by the county governing body. [Formerly 485.585; 1989 c.722 §2; 1989 c.782 §21]

**823.230 Authority to grant exemptions or variances; rules.** (1) The division may grant exemptions or variances from one or more of the requirements of ORS 820.330 to 820.380 or this chapter or the rules adopted thereunder to any class of vehicles if it finds that compliance with such requirement or requirements is inappropriate because of special circumstances which would render compliance unreasonable, burdensome or impractical due to special conditions or cause, or because compliance would result in substantial curtailment of necessary ambulance service. Such exemptions or variances may be limited in time or may be conditioned as the division considers necessary to protect the public welfare.

(2) In determining whether or not a variance shall be granted, the advice of the State Emergency Medical Service Committee shall be received and in all cases the equities involved and the advantages and disadvantages to the welfare of patients and the owners of vehicles shall be weighed by the division.

(3) Rules under this section shall be adopted, amended or repealed in accordance with ORS 183.330. [Formerly 485.590; 1989 c.782 §22]

**823.240 Authority to receive and disburse federal funds.** The division may receive and disburse such federal funds as may be available for carrying out any of the provisions of ORS 820.330 to 820.380 or this chapter. [Formerly 485.595; 1989 c.782 §23]

**823.250 Replacement of one ambulance service by another.** (1) When a city, county or district requires an ambulance service currently operating within the city, county or district to be replaced by another public or private ambulance service, the city, county or district shall provide that:

(a) Paramedic staffing shall be maintained at least at the levels established in the local plan for ambulance services and ambulance service areas developed under ORS 823.180; and

(b) When hiring paramedics to fill vacant or new positions during the six-month period immediately following the date of replacement, the replacement ambulance service shall give preference to qualified employees of the previous ambulance service at comparable certification levels.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Ambulance" has the meaning given that term by ORS 823.020.

(b) "Ambulance service" means any individual, partnership, corporation, association or agency that provides transport services and emergency medical services through use of licensed ambulances.

(c) "District" has the meaning given that term by ORS 198.010.

(d) "Paramedic" has the meaning given that term by ORS 823.020. [1987 c. 845 §1; 1989 c.782 §24]

**823.300 Legislative intent regarding regulation of ambulance services.** The Legislative Assembly declares that the regulation of ambulance services and the establishment of ambulance service areas are important functions of counties, cities and rural fire protection districts in this state. It is the intent of the Legislative Assembly in this Act to affirm the authority of counties, cities and rural fire protection districts to regulate ambulance services and areas and to exempt such regulation from liability under federal antitrust laws. [1989 c.722 §8]

**823.305 Definition of "ambulance services" for ORS 823.180, 823.220 and 823.315.** As used in ORS 823.180, 823.220 and 823.315, "ambulance services" includes the transportation of an ill, injured or disabled individual in an ambulance and, in connection therewith, the administration of prehospital medical or emergency care, if necessary. [1989 c.722 §5]

**823.310 Requirements for adoption and review of ambulance service plan by counties.** (1) In addition to the other requirements of ORS 823.180 and 823.220, when initially adopting a plan for ambulance services and ambulance service areas under ORS 823.180 or upon any subsequent review of the plan, a county shall:

(a) Consider any and all proposals for providing ambulance services that are submitted by a person or governmental unit or a combination thereof;

(b) Require persons and governmental units that desire to provide ambulance services under the plan to meet all the requirements established by the plan; and

(c) Consider existing boundaries of cities and rural fire protection districts when establishing ambulance service areas under the plan.

(2) Subsection (1)(a) and (c) of this section shall not apply to any county that, on or before the July 19, 1989, has initiated its bid process and solicited bids.

(3) When determining the provider of ambulance services upon initial adoption or subsequent review of a plan under ORS 823.180, a county shall not grant preference under the plan to any person or govern-

mental unit solely because that person or governmental unit is providing ambulance services at the time of adoption or review of the plan. [1989 c.722 §7]

**823.315 Provision of ambulance services when county plan not adopted.** When a county plan is not adopted for a county under ORS 823.180:

(1) A person or governmental unit may provide ambulance services within the county. A city or rural fire protection district may provide such services within and outside the city or district boundaries in accordance with policies adopted by the governing body of the city or district, including operation in other districts or cities by intergovernmental agreement under ORS chapter 190.

(2) A person or governmental unit that did not provide ambulance services prior to January 1, 1989, shall not commence the operation of such services under subsection (1) of this section until July 1, 1990, except within an area:

(a) That is otherwise not being served by any other provider of ambulance services; or

(b) For which the fees or other charges for ambulance services are increased between July 15, 1989, and July 1, 1990, by an existing provider of ambulance services. [1989 c.722 §6]

**823.320 Exchange of services agreement for ambulance and emergency medical services.** (1) A city, rural fire protection district or rural ambulance district providing transportation services through use of licensed ambulances that either individually or jointly accept prepayment from persons within their service areas for ambulance and emergency medical services, or ambulance services only, but not for other health care services, and a for-profit or not-for-profit corporation that accepts prepay-

ment for ambulance and emergency medical services, or ambulance services only, but not for other health services, operating within this state or in another state, may enter into an exchange of services agreement for ambulance and emergency medical services.

(2) Any public entity described in subsection (1) of this section may enter into an exchange of services agreement with another comparable entity, operating within this state or in another state, for ambulance and emergency medical services. [1991 c.958 §1]

**Note:** ORS 823.320 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 823 by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

## PENALTIES

**823.990 Civil and criminal penalties.** (1) Violation of any provision of ORS 823.070 (5), 823.130 or 823.210 is a Class A misdemeanor. Each day of continuing violation shall be considered a separate offense.

(2) Violation of any provision of this chapter is a misdemeanor. In any prosecution for such violation it shall be sufficient to sustain a conviction to show a single act of conduct in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter and it shall not be necessary to show a general course of such conduct.

(3) In addition to the penalties under this section, the division may assess civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation against any entity or person licensed under this chapter or subject to licensure under this chapter. [Formerly 485.992; 1989 c.782 §25; 1993 c.371 §12]

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## CHAPTERS 824 to 829

[Reserved for expansion]