EMS Region VIII Policy

Emergency Communication Radio Nurse Initial Training

Only IDPH approved Emergency Communication Radio Nurses are authorized to provide radio direction to ambulance personnel.

ECRN courses approved by IDPH are offered in EMS Region VIII by each Resource Hospital on a rotating basis. Course fees must be paid prior to the beginning of the course. Schedules are available from each Resource Hospital EMS office.

Region VIII course prerequisites are:

- 1 year of ED experience (preferred)
- ACLS or EKG interpretation equivalent
- Sponsorship by a Region VIII Resource or Associate Hospital

The course is 40 hours in length and consists of four 8 hour days of both didactic and clinical material. The final day consists of the final exam at the host hospital during the morning. The sponsoring hospital is responsible for the second half of the final day which will consist of system-specific policies and expectations.

As required by the EMS Act, ECRNs must also complete at least 8 hours of field experience supervised by an EMT (Title 77, part 515, Section 515.740). Each EMS system can require more hours if that is consistent with its system plan. Each EMS system can also require that each nurse complete supervised radio calls.

Satisfactory completion of the Region's ECRN course requires all of the following:

- Payment of course fees
- Attendance at all of the days of the course; no absences are allowed
- Achieving an 80% score on the final exam
- Successful completion of system specific requirements and ride time within 90 days of completion of the ECRN course

The EMS Coordinator from the sponsoring hospital will be responsible for submitting documentation that the nurse has met all of the requirements to the EMS Coordinator from the host hospital. The host hospital EMS Coordinator will submit a transaction card to IDPH for those who have satisfactorily completed the requirements. The host hospital EMS Coordinator will also maintain appropriate records from the course for each of the participants.