



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY
DIRECTOR

OPERATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
#2020-12-11-02	Waiver of Level of Response for AEMT and Paramedic Licensed Services		December 11, 2020
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N/A	Maine EMS	Maine EMS	1
Approved By:	J. Sam Hurley, MPH, EMPS, NRP (Maine EMS Director)		

In consideration of the effects of the ongoing pandemic, the Maine EMS Board delegated to the Chairperson of the Board and the Director of Maine EMS the authority to grant waivers for change in service level on an emergent basis that remain in effect until the next scheduled Board meeting where they will be reviewed. An EMS service experiencing a staffing crisis to the point that they are unable to continue consistently staffing their response units to their level of licensure may submit a request to Maine EMS to downgrade their level of response to no lower than emergency medical technician (EMT). This waiver is only applicable to EMS agencies licensed at the advanced EMT (AEMT) or paramedic level, as transporting services cannot operate below the EMT licensure level. NOTE: Every ambulance in the state must maintain at least an EMT licensed provider on the truck anytime that it is involved with transporting a patient.

In addition, the Board has delegated the authority to waive Maine EMS Rule Chapter 3 §5(1)(C)(2), which requires a 30-day notification period to the public of the change. This allows the downgrade in response level to become effective from the date the waiver is granted to the applicant service by the EMS Board Chair and EMS Director. An emergent service level of response waiver will be reviewed by the full EMS Board at their next regularly scheduled meeting, **at which time the Board will review the waiver and determine the period for which it will remain effective.**

To be clear, services who wish to employ the practice outlined in this waiver shall request authorization from the Maine EMS office in writing *before* modifying any level of response. A waiver request must include a time period of expected workforce staffing shortage to aid the Board in determining the expiration date of the waiver.

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PHONE: (207) 626-3860

TTY: (207) 287-3659

FAX: (207) 287-6251

With offices located at the Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330