



EMS Information Bulletin 2018-17

DATE: August 7, 2018

SUBJECT: Ground ambulances supporting air ambulance operations

TO: EMS Agencies

FROM: Dylan Ferguson, Director
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PA Department of Health
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A handwritten signature in blue ink, enclosed in a blue oval. The signature appears to be 'Dylan Ferguson'.

In conjunction with the recently released EMS Information Bulletin (EMSIB insert number for reference) related to *Use of Department-approved agency air medical protocols*, the Bureau of EMS has received questions from ground EMS agencies on the requirements to transport air medical flight personnel by ground. Specifically, the questions relate to times of inclement weather and during other instances where the aircraft is unable to fly (e.g. out of service for maintenance).

Ground EMS agencies, independent of those owned and operated by an air ambulance provider that are used to transport a patient and air medical crew, must meet minimum staff requirements for a BLS ambulance. The only exception in instances where the ground agency and air medical agency have a written agreement or contract for the utilization of a vehicle and driver only. To ensure patient safety when utilizing the agreement or contract model, this agreement must outline how the air crew will become familiar with any ambulance equipment that they may have to use during the transport. This specific orientation may occur as just in time training or prior to initial utilization of the agreement. If the air crew will be completely self-sufficient during the transport and not require any ground agency equipment, no orientation is required.

Please contact your regional council with any questions