

NH EMS Laws and Rules

Emergency Medical Services in New Hampshire is governed by laws (RSA 153-A) and Administrative Rules (Saf-C 5900). All EMS Providers and Units are expected to be familiar with and abide by all of these laws and rules. Failure to abide by these governing documents can result in EMS License suspension, revocation or denial, as well as the levying of Administrative Fines. Becoming familiar with and adhering to the rules will ensure that Providers and Units can continue to provide the best in prehospital patient care to the residents and visitors of New Hampshire. This brochure addresses some of the most frequently asked questions.

What is an “RSA”?

“RSA” stands for “Revised Statutes Annotated”. RSA is state law. Laws must go through the Legislative process to be enacted, repealed, or changed. RSA 153-A is the state statute that pertains to Emergency Medical Services.

What is “Saf-C”?

“Saf-C” is the prefix assigned to the Department of Safety for use in Administrative Rules. Administrative Rules are authorized by RSA (state law), and therefore, hold the authority of law. Administrative Rules do not need to go through the *entire* Legislative process to be enacted, repealed, or changed. The Saf-C 5900 series are the Administrative Rules that govern Emergency Medical Services in New Hampshire.

Do I need a NH EMS Provider License to do patient care?

If you “may be expected to routinely provide emergency medical services in the line of duty” you MUST possess a current EMS Provider License. **example:** if you are required to hold a NREMT certification as a condition of employment, it is implied that you “may be expected to routinely provide emergency medical services in the line of duty” and therefore, you may need to become a licensed. Provider.
(RSA 153-A:11 and RSA 153-A:28)

What do I need in order to become licensed in NH?

In order to obtain a NH EMS Provider License, every applicant must provide all of the following:

- 1) Proof of current NREMT certification at the level for which the applicant is applying for NH licensure
- 2) Successful completion of the division-developed [EMT / AEMT / Paramedic] NH Scope of Practice Module program (s)
- 3) Successful completion of the current Division-developed written protocol examination
- 4) A written statement signed by the primary EMS service’s head of unit affirming that the applicant is affiliated with either the licensed unit or performing EMS skills under medical control in a patient/healthcare setting. (License Application)
- 5) **Beginning on January 1, 2017** all NEW and lapsed/re-licensing applicants for a NH EMS Provider License, must complete fingerprinting and Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) with the NH State Police as a part of the EMS licensing process.

(see Division website for further information)

Where can I find the laws and rules governing NH EMS?

<http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/>

For more information, please contact a representative from the EMS Operations section

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NH EMS LICENSING LAWS and RULES



Commonly asked questions and answers about the Laws and Rules governing Emergency Medical Services in New Hampshire

(Please refer to the Division’s website for a complete listing of all Laws and Rules governing NH EMS)

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State of New Hampshire
Department of Safety
Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services

<http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/>

Provider Licensing

What do I need prior to working as an EMS Provider?

You need to become licensed in order to work as an EMS Provider in New Hampshire. An applicant should not “assume” they are licensed once their NH EMS Provider License Application paperwork is submitted to the Division/Bureau of EMS.

A “card-in-hand” or an email from the Division **AND** “active” status in TEMSIS (obtained by the local system administrator) are what Providers and Unit Leaders should confirm prior to personnel being scheduled to respond and rendering patient care in this state.

What is TEMSIS?

TEMSIS stands for Trauma Emergency Medical Services Information System, which is the NH system for patient care reporting required for use by EMS Providers.

Are there any age restrictions for obtaining a New Hampshire EMS Provider’s License?

Yes. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age in order to obtain a NH EMS Provider’s License. The exception to this law is in the case of an Apprentice license for young adults up to the age of 18 who are members of Units that have an organized Apprentice Program.

I am a Doctor/PA/Nurse/Nurse Practitioner. Do I need to hold an EMS Provider License to provide prehospital patient care?

Yes. All healthcare professionals who function as prehospital EMS Providers must be licensed as an EMR, EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic. (Saf-C 5903.05)

I am a student in a training program. Do I need a license to provide the skills that I perform as part of my “clinical/field rotations”?

No, BUT the caveat is that the student must be currently enrolled in a training program approved by the Division. Once the program ends, s/he is no longer considered a student, and the exemption for licensure is null and void. **Once the course completion roster is submitted by an Instructor, to the Division, the course is complete. Individuals that were once “enrolled” are no longer considered students and should not be practicing patient care skills without a current/valid license.**

(RSA 153-A:11 VI)

Why do I need to take a “NH Scope of Practice Modules Program” and Protocol Exam in order to become licensed?

New Hampshire protocols allow Providers to perform skills that are “outside” the National EMS Education Standards, but are approved for practice in NH. In order to ensure that Providers have been adequately trained to provide the skills, the Division of FST & EMS has developed these Scope of Practice Programs to educate Providers to these additional skill-sets. The protocol exam, which includes cognitive testing of the Scope of Practice skills, helps to ensure that the Provider is educated over all areas of the Protocols.

(Saf-C 5903.04)

I am not a lawyer, how can I be expected to know all of the EMS laws and rules?

Directly above where you sign the NH EMS Provider License Application is a statement that you are “in full compliance with RSA 153-A and the rules adopted thereunder”. All Providers are **strongly encouraged to read and understand the laws and rules which govern EMS** in New Hampshire (and those for any other state in which they work). Also, we can be contacted for assistance with any questions.

(Saf-C 5903.05)

I heard a neighboring town get dispatched to an interesting-sounding call. Can I respond to the call even though the dispatched service is responding?

No. Call jumping shall constitute unethical conduct and fines for the violation of such conduct shall be imposed in accordance with Saf-C 5907.02 Notwithstanding [the] above, a licensed emergency medical care provider may render care at his/her level of training on a voluntary basis due to happenstance, mutual aid or mass casualty response. Emergency medical providers assisting in such an emergency situation shall be immune from civil liability in accordance with the requirements set forth in RSA 508:12-a.

(Saf-C 5902.05)

I left one department/service/unit and am now with another Unit. What do I need to do?

EMS Provider Licenses are contingent upon affiliation with a NH Licensed Unit (see *What do I need in order to become licensed in NH?*). In order to remain actively licensed the Division must be notified of the new affiliation within 30 days of the change. (Saf-C 5902.08)

What is Licensure vs. Certification?

The State of New Hampshire requires all EMS personnel who provide pre-hospital patient care to LICENSE with the Division.

Licensure occurs after the individual has successfully completed all training and skills verification in an EMS training program **and** the final National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) psychomotor and cognitive examinations. This successful completion of both the education/training components and final NREMT testing results in a CERTIFICATION from the NREMT.

Unit Licensing

What information does my EMS Unit have to submit to the Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS?

All units shall report the following, in writing, to the division within 30 days:

- (1) All new Providers affiliated with the unit,
- (2) All Providers NO LONGER unit affiliated,
- (3) Relocation of the unit,
- (4) Closing of a Unit or substation,
- (5) Additions and deletions of vehicles,
- (6) Changes to the head of unit,
- (7) Changes to Unit authorized signatory listing,
- (8) Changes to TEMSIS Administrators
- (9) Changes to mailing addresses, and
- (10) Copies to EMS vehicle crash reports

(Saf-C 5902.08)

Do NH EMS Units require a Medical Resource Hospital Agreement?

Yes. Each Unit shall have a written agreement with only **one** hospital which will serve as its medical resource hospital (MRH). Designation of a MRH by the Unit shall be made on the basis of either the hospital either being geographically located nearest to the population served by the unit or which hospital receives the majority of the Unit’s patients. (Saf-C 5902.03)

Are there any requirements for the number of licensed Providers needed to legally transport a patient?

Yes. There must be TWO licensed Providers to legally transport a patient in NH. The Apprentice Level license is NOT considered as one of the TWO licensed Provider levels required to transport a patient in an emergency medical services vehicle. Additionally, at least one of the transporting Providers must be licensed, at minimum, as an EMT. (Saf-C 5902.07)