

NH EMS Laws and Rules

Emergency Medical Services in New Hampshire is governed by laws (RSA 153-A) and Administrative Rules (Saf-C 5900). 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 Laws must go through the Legislative process to be enacted, repealed, or changed.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 Administrative Rules do not need to go through the *entire* Legislative process to be enacted, repealed, or changed.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.

When do I need a NH EMS Provider’s License?

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 registration as a condition of employment, it is implied that you “*may be expected to routinely provide emergency medical services in the line of duty.*”

(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) Current proof of NREMT registration at the level for which the applicant is applying for NH licensure
- 2) Current certificate of successful completion of the division developed [EMT / AEMT / Paramedic] NH Scope of Practice Modules program(s)
- 3) Current proof of successful completion of a 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 the licensed unit; or a patient/healthcare setting, performing EMS skills under medical control (License Application)

(Saf-C 5903.04)

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
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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?

With the addition of the NH Scope of Practice (SoP) Modules program and protocol exam requirements, a Provider should not automatically “assume” to be licensed once their paperwork is mailed to the Division/Bureau of EMS.

A “card-in-hand”, “active” status in TEMSIS (obtained by the local system administrator), **AND** verbal verification from the Division is what Providers and Unit Leaders should confirm before personnel is scheduled to respond and rendering patient care.

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.

(RSA 153-A:11 III)

I am a Doctor/Physician Assistant/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 FR/EMR, EMT-B/EMT, EMT-I/AEMT, or EMT-P/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 rotations”?

No. The caveats to this are that the training program must be approved by the Division, and the student must be currently enrolled in the training program. Once the program ends, the student exemption for licensure is null and void. This includes those who have completed the training program, but have not yet obtained NREMT certification at that new level. **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 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 not covered by the US DOT National Standard Curricula and/or National EMS Education Standards. 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 unique skill-sets. The protocol exam, which includes cognitive testing of the Scope of Practice skills, also ensures 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 these 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).

(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. Happenstance is also known as “on site”, or just happening upon the scene unexpectedly.

(Saf-C 5902.05)

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

EMS Provider’s Licenses are contingent upon affiliation with a NH Licensed Unit (see *What do I need in order to become licensed?*). In order to remain licensed, your new department/service/unit must notify the Division that you are now affiliated with them. If your old Unit notifies the Division that you are no longer affiliated with that Unit, and your new Unit fails to notify the Division that you are now affiliated with them, your license will automatically lapse.

(Saf-C 5903.04)



Unit Licensing

What changes does my EMS Unit have to tell the Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS about?

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) Additions and deletions of vehicles,
- (5) Changes to the head of unit.

(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 being geographically located nearest to the population served by the unit or which 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 Providers required to transport a patient in an emergency medical services vehicle. Additionally, at least one of the transporting Providers must be licensed as an EMT-Basic/EMT (or higher).

(Saf-C 5902.07)