

Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency EMT Certification Information

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The EMS Agency, a division of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, is the regulatory agency responsible for oversight of the emergency medical services (EMS) system which includes fire departments, ambulance companies, hospitals and educational programs for paramedics and EMT's. We DO NOT provide direct patient care. [Call 9-1-1 if you need emergency medical care](#)

Business Hours

The EMS Agency is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm and closed Fridays, weekends and all County holidays.

Location

Our address is 10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Driving directions can be found by clicking [DIRECTIONS](#)

Parking

Parking is available at no charge in the parking lot adjacent to the building.

Payments Accepted

Fees may be paid by cashier's check, money order, personal check or by cash when paid in person. Credit cards and Debit Cards are now accepted online by clicking [HERE](#)

NOTE: DO NOT MAIL CASH

Nearby Local EMS Agencies:

[Kern County](#) (661) 868-5200
[Orange County](#) (714) 834-3500
[Riverside County](#) (951) 358-5029
[San Bernardino County](#) (ICEMA): (909) 388-5823
[San Diego County](#) (619) 285-6429
[Santa Barbara County](#) (805) 681-5274
[Ventura County](#) (805)981-5301

State of California EMS Authority

10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Main Phone Number: (916) 322-4336
www.emsa.ca.gov

For Information not listed on the EMS Agency website or EMT certification questions, send an email to our EMT **Information** account at emtinfo@dhs.lacounty.gov.

A staff member will respond within three (3) business days.
Please do not call the EMS Agency in addition to emailing.
The EMS Agency is closed Fridays, weekends and all County holidays.

EMT CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Criminal Background Questions

Criminal background information for all EMT applicants is reviewed prior to issuing EMT certification. The State of California Code of Regulations and Health and Safety Code criteria, listed [Here](#) are applied when reviewing criminal history and background information.

EMS Continuing Education (CE) for Renewal of EMT Certification

Continuing education must be obtained from an approved EMS CE or CAPCE provider. Examples of CE include classes, conferences, organized field care audits, online and media-based productions. A list of California EMS CE programs can be found [here](#). Online courses may be taken; however, content and hours must meet California EMS CE requirements and you may not complete more than 8 hours on any given day. EMS CE must be medically based for the EMS provider and taken during your current certification. In the case of a lapsed certification, EMS CE must be within the past 2 years from the date you submit a complete EMT renewal application.

EMT Training Programs

The EMS Agency does not conduct EMT training. A list of EMT Training Programs approved by and located in Los Angeles County can be found [here](#).

General Process for EMT Certification

To become an EMT in California, complete an EMT course from an approved [EMT Training Program](#). Second, pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) EMT [computer based testing](#). Third, apply for EMT certification with **ONE** California local EMS Agency, aka “certifying entity”. You must apply for certification within two-years of being issued an EMT course completion record. In certain cases, if course completion is greater than two years old, but NREMT certification has been maintained, the two-year rule may be waived.

Live Scan Requirements

IMPORTANT: All first time EMT applicants must obtain a Live Scan for the Los Angeles County EMS Agency to receive the California Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI criminal history report information required for EMT certification. **GENERALLY, THIS IS A ONE-TIME REQUIREMENT.**

EMTs **not** currently certified by the Los Angeles County EMS Agency OR who have a lapse of more than one year with any California certifying entity, must complete a new Live Scan for the Los Angeles County EMS Agency in order to be certified as an EMT.

Live Scan for Criminal History Report Information

A “Live Scan” is an electronic submission of your fingerprints to the DOJ. The Live Scan fee is approximately \$80.00 and is paid by you to the Live Scan Operator who obtains your fingerprints. The fee covers the Live Scan Operator’s service fee and the CA DOJ and FBI report fees. The DOJ reports are sent electronically to the EMS Agency usually within 7 days. In some cases, it may take several weeks before the EMS Agency receives a report. The CA DOJ and FBI reports list all criminal history on file and are reviewed PRIOR to issuing EMT certification.

Live Scan Agency Locations and Request Form

The EMS Agency does not perform Live Scans. A complete list of State approved Live Scan Agencies can be found [here](#). Fees may vary. Live Scans **MUST** be obtained in California. Print [this form](#) which contains the Los Angeles County EMS Agency contact information and bring it with you to the Live Scan Agency.

Live Scans Previously Submitted for any other Agency, Company or Employer

You will need to complete a Live Scan specifically for the Los Angeles County EMS Agency. State laws prohibit DOJ and FBI information from being shared among agencies.

Status of Live Scan Report

You may check on the status of your Live Scan report by calling the California DOJ at (916) 277- 4557 or by checking their website at <https://applicantstatus.doj.ca.gov>

FOR LIVE SCAN QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE EMS AGENCY AT emtinfo@dhs.lacounty.gov

Los Angeles County EMT Requirements

California EMT certification is valid throughout the State of California. Other Counties may have local requirements to function as an EMT within their County. To function as an EMT in Los Angeles County you need:

1. Current, valid California EMT certification
2. Current CPR card equivalent to American Heart or Red Cross Basic Life Support.
****All documents must be maintained by you and provided to your EMS employer.*

NOTE: Los Angeles County EMS Agency does not have EMT Accreditation.

Meeting the above requirements allows you to function as an EMT in Los Angeles County.

DO NOT apply for EMT certification with the Los Angeles County EMS Agency if you have current California EMT certification with another EMS agency or fire department. You may apply for renewal of your California EMT certification by the EMS Agency provided you meet the requirements for renewal as stated in this document.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) EMT Registration

California Regulations require first-time EMT applicants and those CA EMTs expired for more than 12 months to take and pass the NREMT EMT exam in order to be eligible for EMT certification.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) EMT Registration Maintenance

California DOES NOT require EMTs to maintain NREMT EMT basic registration in order to function as an EMT or to renew California EMT certification.

Notification of Change in Name, Address, Phone Number, E-Mail or Employer

EMTs are required by State regulations to submit changes in name, address, phone, and employer to the EMS Agency with which they are certified within 30 days. Click [here](#) to complete the required form.

Payments Accepted

Fees may be paid by cashier's check, money order, personal check or cash when paid in person. Credit Card and Debit Card payments are accepted just click [HERE](#)

NOTE: DO NOT MAIL CASH

Replacement of Lost or Stolen EMT Certification Card

Submit a request for a replacement card with a copy of a government issued identification and the \$12.00 fee by U.S. Mail or in person at the EMS Agency during business hours. Payment can be submitted online just click [HERE](#)

Skills Competency Verification for Renewal of EMT Certification – Revised 01/2017

Every two years, at any time during your EMT certification cycle, you must complete a Skills Competency Verification Exam. Proof of successful completion must be submitted with your application. This can be done through an EMT Refresher Course by an approved EMT training program or from an approved EMS Skills Competency Verification Program. **The EMS Agency does not conduct Skills Competency Verification.** A list of approved Skills Competency Verification Programs can be found [here](#).

EMT CERTIFICATION APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: The EMS Agency does not process initial or renewal EMT certification applications with same-day or expedited service. Mail or submit your complete application in person during business hours. Apply for EMT renewal at least 30 days prior to the current expiration date.

Fees and documents required vary due to the type of application, certification status, and/or current certifying entity.

Submit your EMT application by U.S. Mail or in person at the EMS Agency during business hours. It is not necessary to send your application by overnight delivery, FedEx or UPS. Ensure your application is complete with of all required documents and the correct fee.

Your EMT certification or renewal application will be processed and mailed to the address on file within 21 days of receiving a complete application. If your application is incomplete, you will be contacted with the details of what is required. If after 90 days, you have not submitted the required elements, your application will be closed. Be advised, that during this time, additional elements may be required based upon the status and timing of the application and/or certification expiration date.

Initial EMT Certification - No prior California EMT certification

Submit your [Application for Initial Certification](#) with the following:

- Fee of \$160 paid by cashier's check, money order, personal check or cash when paid in person. Credit and Debit card accepted online just click [HERE](#)

NOTE: DO NOT MAIL CASH

Copies of:

- Current NREMT EMT card
- A course completion record documenting successful completion of an approved EMT course within the past two years. With out-of-state certification, the timeframe may not be applicable.

NOTE: If course completion is greater than two years old, but NREMT certification has been maintained, the two-year rule may be waived.

- Current CPR card equivalent to American Heart or Red Cross Basic Life Support. A copy of the front and back sides of the card or certificate with bar code and authentication number is required. Must be valid at least three months beyond the date a complete application is submitted. **NOTE: Online CPR courses are not accepted**
- Request for Live Scan [this form](#) obtained using LA County EMS Agency web page form
- Government Issued Identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Driver's License)
- Any other current or expired health care certification/accreditation/license, if applicable - **includes out of state**. Examples include EMT, Paramedic, RN, LVN, etc.

Reciprocity Requirements

Individuals trained and currently certified as an EMT, AEMT, EMT Intermediate, or Paramedic in another state, complete and submit all documents described for Initial EMT certification requirements. <mailto:emtinfo@dhs.lacounty.gov> with any questions.

RENEWAL OF CALIFORNIA EMT CERTIFICATION

California EMT certification is current and has NOT expired:

Submit your [Application for Recertification](#) with the following:

- Appropriate fee as listed below paid by cashier's check, money order, personal check or cash when paid in person. Credit and Debit cards accepted online just click [HERE](#)

NOTE: DO NOT MAIL CASH

Copies of:

- Current California EMT certification.
- Current CPR card equivalent to American Heart or Red Cross Basic Life Support. A copy of the front and back sides of the card or certificate with bar code and authentication number is required. Must be valid at least three months beyond the date a complete application is submitted. **NOTE: Online CPR courses are not accepted**
- Proof of completion of a 24 hour EMT Refresher Course **OR** 24 hours of EMS CE within the EMT current certification cycle. **NOTE: No more than 12 hours of EMS CE per day will be accepted and all CE courses must be greater than 1 hour.**
- Skills Competency Verification form (SCV 01/17) completed within the past two years and signed by an [approved provider](#).
- Government Issued Identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Driver's License).
- **ONLY OBTAIN** a [Live Scan](#) if your current EMT certification was **NOT** issued by the LA County EMS Agency.

California EMT certification expired for LESS than 6 months:

Submit your [LA County EMS Agency EMT Renewal Application](#) with the following:

- Appropriate fee as listed below paid by cashier's check, money order, personal check or cash when paid in person.

NOTE: DO NOT MAIL CASH – CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED

Copies of:

- Most recent California EMT certification
- Current CPR card equivalent to American Heart or Red Cross Basic Life Support. A copy of the front and back sides of the card or certificate with bar code and authentication number is required. Must be valid at least three months beyond the date a complete application is submitted. **NOTE: Online CPR courses are not accepted**
- Proof of completion of a 24 hour EMT Refresher Course **OR** 24 hours of EMS CE within the

past two years. **NOTE: No more than 12 hours of EMS CE per day will be accepted and all CE courses must be greater than 1 hour.**

- Skills Competency Verification form (SCV 01/17) completed within the past two years and signed by an [approved California provider](#).
- Government Issued identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Driver's License).
- **ONLY OBTAIN** a [Live Scan](#) if your most recent EMT certification was **NOT** issued by the LA County EMS Agency.

California EMT certification expired for MORE than 6 months but LESS than 12 months:

Submit your [Application for Recertification](#) with the following:

- Appropriate fee as listed below paid by cashier's check, money order, personal check or cash when paid in person. Credit and Debit cards accepted online just click [HERE](#)

NOTE: DO NOT MAIL CASH

Copies of:

- Most recent California EMT certification
- Current CPR card equivalent to American Heart or Red Cross Basic Life Support. A copy of the front and back sides of the card or certificate with bar code and authentication number is required. Must be valid at least three months beyond the date a complete application is submitted. **NOTE: Online CPR courses are not accepted**
- Proof of completion of a 24 Hour EMT Refresher Course **AND** 12 hours of EMS CE **OR** a total of 36 hours of EMS CE obtained within the past two years at the time a complete application is submitted. **NOTE: No more than 12 hours of EMS CE per day will be accepted and all CE courses must be greater than 1 hour.**
- Skills Competency Verification form (SCV 01/17) completed within the past two years and signed by an [approved skills provider](#).
- Government Issued Identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Driver's License).
- **ONLY OBTAIN** a [Live Scan](#) if your most recent EMT certification was **NOT** issued by the LA County EMS Agency.

California EMT certification expired for 12 months or MORE:

Submit your [Application for Recertification](#) with the following:

- Appropriate fee as listed below paid by cashier's check, money order, personal check or cash when paid in person. Credit and Debit cards are accepted online just click [HERE](#)

NOTE: DO NOT MAIL CASH

Copies of:

- Most recent California EMT certification

- Current NREMT EMT card
- Current CPR card equivalent to American Heart or Red Cross Basic Life Support. A copy of the front and back sides of the card or certificate with bar code and authentication number is required. Must be valid at least three months beyond the date a complete application is submitted.
NOTE: Online CPR courses are not accepted
- Proof of completion of a 24 hour EMT Refresher Course **AND** 24 hours of EMS CE **OR** a total of 48 hours of EMS CE within the past two years of the date a complete application is submitted. **NOTE: No more than 12 hours of EMS CE per day will be accepted and all CE courses must be greater than 1 hour.**
- Skills Competency Verification form (SCV 01/17) completed within the past two years and signed by an [approved skills provider](#)
- Government Issued Identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Driver's License).
- Obtain a new Live Scan using the Request for [Live Scan](#) obtained from the LA County EMS Agency web page. **NOTE: A new Live Scan must be completed for all renewal applicants with a lapse in EMT certification of 12 months or more.**

Renewal Fees

Renewal fees are based on the current status of and the California entity which issued your EMT certification. Current fees are:

- **\$120** EMT certification is current **OR** has lapsed less than 12 months **AND** was issued by the Los Angeles County EMS Agency
- **\$160** EMT certification is current **OR** lapsed less than 12 months **AND** was not issued by the Los Angeles County EMS Agency
- **\$160** EMT certification has lapsed more than 12 months

For questions regarding EMT certification, email the EMS Agency at emtinfo@dhs.lacounty.gov

A staff member will respond within 3 business days.

Please, do not call the EMS Agency in addition to emailing.

The EMS Agency is closed Fridays, weekends and all County holidays.