

Kansas EMS Association Safety Seal of Approval Designation Criteria

To be eligible for initial KEMSA Safety Seal of Approval designation, the agency must:

- Must be a Service Member in good standing with the Kansas EMS Association (KEMSA)
- Must comply with the following educational, policy and safety practice criteria within their department
- Must complete all applications and supply all requested support materials to the KEMSA Board as instructed

POLICY AND PRACTICE CRITERIA

Education

The applicant agency must include safety related programs within their departmental continuing education program at least annually.

Approved safety topics might include: infection control in the EMS environment; proper use of PPE by EMS responders lifting and moving patients; correct transportation of pediatric patients using child safety seats; other courses designed to increase awareness of on the job hazards faced by EMS personnel or designed to increase the technical skills to prevent injury to EMS personnel or patients.

The agency must mandate an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course that includes course completion certificate such as CEVO-II Ambulance or similar courses. All personnel on their roster must be required to participate.

Emergency Vehicle Operations

The applicant agency must have written emergency vehicle operation policy that includes:

Guidelines for use of lights and sirens in departmental vehicles that includes conditions under which those warning devices will be used; written guidelines regarding POV response that includes when such response is acceptable and how POV will be operated

Safety Restraint policy must include written policy that, at a minimum, requires the use of safety restraints by all vehicle occupants (including patients) when the vehicle is in motion unless actively involved in patient care activities that preclude such use; use of child safety seats as appropriate

Written policy that requires all equipment, supplies and articles be secured while the vehicle is in motion.

Written policy for acceptable driving practice which includes at a minimum the requirement to stop at all stop signs and red lights regardless of response running code and includes vehicle operation standards regarding speed, traffic laws and crew responsibilities

Defined driving standards that, at a minimum, requires acceptable driving record criteria, including initial check, annual check and personnel responsibility to report all changes to their driving record.

Infection Control

The applicant agency must have written infection control policy that includes:

Guidance for proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which includes recommended PPE for various patient conditions of concern; disposal of sharps and biohazard materials and supplies; handling of patient linens; handling and cleaning of EMS equipment contaminated by patient body fluids; disinfection procedures for the interior of the ambulance after patient transport.

Written policy that outlines a process for reporting possible disease exposures and follow up procedures for those exposures.

Written policy that outlines an immunization tracking program for all personnel on their roster

Injury Prevention Activities

The applicant agency must actively participate in at least one injury prevention project within their community annually and will submit substantiating materials about that project with their application

Other Criteria

The applicant agency must present at least one other policy, project outlines or media clippings that show the department's dedication to promoting a safety culture throughout their organization

This could include: policy requiring the use of reflective vests at all traffic crashes; policy providing cost free immunizations (other than Hepatitis B) for all personnel; policy regarding bariatric patients; specialized equipment in service to ensure safe patient handling and EMS provider safety.