

Wyoming EMS FAQs (and answers)



**PRESENTED TO THE
WYOMING RURAL FIREFIGHTER'S
ASSOCIATION
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Disclaimer



The Wyoming Office of EMS is **not** legal counsel.

We provide interpretations of our (OEMS') rules, and have no authority to speak to other state's laws or statutes or any other rules in Wyoming.

Local fire and EMS agencies should rely upon the advice of their own legal counsel.

What is the difference between “certification” and “licensure?”



- **Answer:** “Certification” refers to verification by an entity that an individual or organization has met certain requirements or standards. “Licensure” or “license” is a specific authority to act. Historically, EMS has used these terms interchangeably, but ***they do not*** mean the same thing.
- Current Wyoming rules use the term “certification,” but the point is, that is the OEMS’ certification that “authorizes” an EMT to act in Wyoming. - Ch. 1, Sec 4(o)
- An entity (like the American Heart Association) can “certify” someone in ACLS, but it is the *designated body of the state* that grants the authority to act.

What is the National Registry of EMTs?



- **Answer:** The National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) is a non-profit, independent, **certification** agency. They have **no authority** to grant **any** EMT the right to work in **any** state.
- – See W.S. 33-36-101, also see the NREMT website @ https://www.nremt.org/nremt/about/emt_cand_state_offices.asp

Is there any Federal requirement that a state accept the certification provided by the NREMT?



- **Answer:** No. States may accept or reject NREMT certification as part of the state's licensure process, based on the structure of the state's statutes and rules. They (NREMT) have **no authority** to require any state to accept their certification, change or alter levels of service, or any other component of EMS system design.
- The state OEMS has to include an organization like the NREMT credentials in its rules or statute in order to utilize them in its licensing process.

Does the NREMT develop or approve curricula or EMT courses?



- **Answer:** No. The NREMT allows individuals to take the NREMT exams based on completion of a “state approved” EMT course.

I am a National Registry EMT or paramedic. Can I provide care in Wyoming?



- No. The National Registry of EMT's is not a licensing authority. (See question #2.) You must comply with Wyoming's licensing process.

What does an EMT licensed in another state have to do to become licensed in Wyoming?



- **Answer:**

1. Submit an application to the Wyoming Office of EMS
2. Provide documentation of successful EMT course completion that is substantially equivalent to a Wyoming EMT course.
3. Complete a fingerprint based background check through the Wyoming Department of Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
4. Successfully pass the Wyoming Licensure Exam
(See *Rules and Regulations for Wyoming Emergency Medical Services*, Ch. 5, Sec. 2 and Ch. 10, Sec. 1)

Is there a provisional or emergency licensing allowance in Wyoming?



- **Answer:** No. There is no current provision for provisional, emergency or expedited licensing.
- This doesn't mean the OEMS can't create one...it just doesn't exist right now.
- **Be aware...** other authorities exist for the Governor or his designees to manage an emergency as they deem necessary.

Is there a limitation on what skills a person can provide in Wyoming?



- **Answer:** Yes. Regardless of what certifications, licensure or training the individual maintains, they must adhere to the Wyoming scope of practice for their current level of Wyoming licensure.
- See Rules and Regulations for Wyoming Emergency Medical Services, Ch. 1, Sec. 4(i) then Ch. 5 & 10.

I am a Wyoming licensed EMT and am functioning as a member of a wild-land fire response. What care can I provide?



- **Answer:** The Rules state in Chapter 5, Section 11:
 - (b) An attendant who holds a valid attendant certificate issued by the Division, and who is acting with the consent of the patient, may be authorized to perform the skills defined below in the care of a patient, as consistent with the formal training for the category of the certificate held by the attendant and the skills authorized by the Division.*
 - (d) A certified EMT Basic attendant is authorized to:*
 - *Render emergency care, rescue and resuscitation service consistent with formal training through the EMT basic course;*
 - *Provide emergency transportation; (provide care during transport in an ambulance)*
 - *Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation in accordance with the Healthcare Provider standards of the American Heart Association, or its equivalent;*
 - *Administer oxygen and assist a patient with self-administered medications as authorized by the Division for the EMT basic;*
 - *Perform defibrillation using an AED according to the recommended guidelines of the Division;*

I am a Wyoming licensed EMT and am functioning as a member of a wild-land fire response. What care can I provide? (cont.)



- Each higher level is authorized by rule to perform these same acts. The limitation comes with the advanced skills and medications. This is spelled out in Chapter 5, Section 11(c):

*(c) EMT Intermediate and Paramedic attendants are limited to administering authorized medications and performing authorized advanced skills **when functioning as a member of their identified ambulance service**; when on duty with their identified law enforcement or military organization; or when assisting the Office of Emergency Medical Services' (OEMS) staff, functioning under the OEMS's identified physician medical director, during a state supported event.*

(Note: The same language is used in Ch. 10, Sec. 10(d), but includes the words "...when functioning as a member of their Division approved fire protection service.)

I am a Wyoming licensed EMT and am functioning as a member of a wild-land fire response. What care can I provide?



- Interpretation: The current rules do not place the same limitation on the provision of care at the EMT – Basic level.
- With the exception of “provide emergency transportation” any Wyoming EMT can provide care at the EMT-Basic level anywhere in Wyoming.
- An EMT can not “force” themselves on an ambulance service or “take over” a call, nor can they simply respond or “scanner jump” on their own. We interpret this as applying to incidentals or when functioning in some other capacity.

How is an EMS jurisdiction defined in Wyoming?



- **Answer:** EMS jurisdictions are not delineated within Wyoming. A Wyoming EMT or ambulance service is licensed by the state, and may therefore provide care anywhere within the state, assuming all other provisions of rules are met. The only limitations that may exist are placed by virtue of local restrictions.

If I am on duty with my Wyoming ambulance service and am called out of my town, city, county to another Wyoming area, can I provide care?



- **Answer:** Yes. (Refer back to questions 9&10)

Scenario 1



An on-duty, Wyoming ambulance service is called from one county to render care at a fire scene in another county.

Can they provide care?

Yes. This is “functioning as a member of their identified ambulance service.”

Scenario 2



A Wyoming EMT-I or paramedic works for or volunteers with an Intermediate ambulance service in one county, but volunteers as a firefighter in another.

Can they function as an EMT-I or paramedic?

No. They are under a different supervision, and therefore not, “...functioning as a member of their identified ambulance service.”

Scenario 3

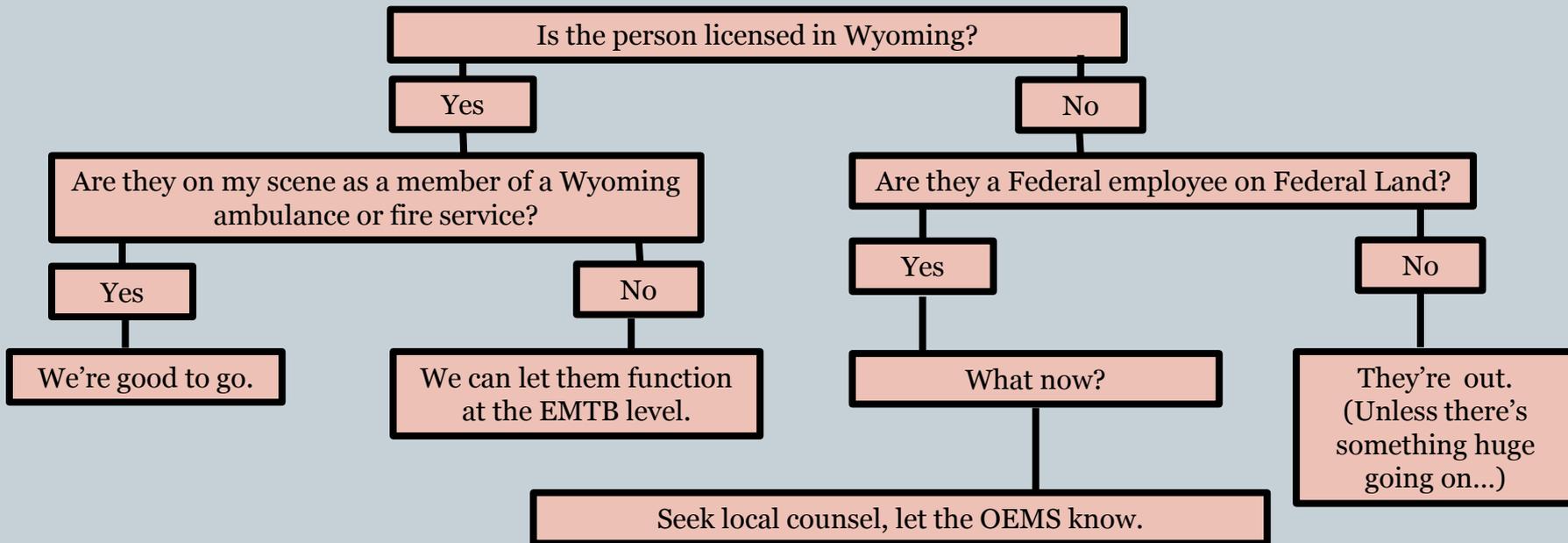


A Wyoming EMT works for or volunteers with an ambulance service in one county, but volunteers as a firefighter in another.

Can he provide care?

Yes, as long as he functions at the EMT-Basic level.

Litmus test



The Elephant in the Room



- What about Federal authorities?
- There are exemptions provided in Federal law under which Federal employees are not required to comply with state law. (Yellowstone, Teton, DHS, etc.)
- There *may* be contract provisions that extend this same exemption.
- Contracts –
 - What types are out there? Who is issuing the contract? Does it really provide an exemption? (This is really high level stuff that we need your help with.)

Questions/Discussion



- **OEMS updates**
 - Webinars – Rules for the EMS Sustainability Trust Account/Designation of Heart Attack and Stroke Centers (December 20, 2013)
 - Brandon Kelley – Supervising EMS education, licensing, compliance, EMS-C
 - Anticipating EMS Leadership Academy again, two sessions in 2014
 - Online credentialing – awaiting the finalization of contract
 - EMT courses in the spring are all self scheduled (still more work to be done)
 - Rules are slow moving right now