

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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## **Mission Support Team (MST) Frequently Asked Questions November 2009**

### **What is a Mission Support Team?**

- A trained and organized team that can provide or assist with logistical support and can assist with Command/Control functions within the field Incident/Unified Command for medical resources deployed by or through the EMS Authority
- An emergency management entity structured under the Incident Command System (ICS)
- An informational and coordinating link between state-deployed medical resources and the EMS Authority
- A coordination/operational link to the local entity that has requested state-deployed medical resources

### **What Experience do I need to be on the MST?**

- Trained in ICS (preferably through the 300 and 400 levels) and California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)
- Experience in Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operations
- Experience as a medical disaster responder (team or individual deployments)

### **What kind of resources does the MST support?**

- California Medical Assistance Teams (CAL-MAT)
- State-deployed Ambulance Strike Teams (ASTs)
- EMS Authority-owned Mobile Field Hospitals (MFH)
- Hospital Administration Support Unit (HASU)
- Disaster Medical Support Units (DMSU)

### **How many people deploy on an MST?**

This depends on the size and location(s) of the medical resources supported by the MST. There are four MST levels, and the team may vary from 5 – 40 people depending on the specific needs.

### **Are MST members paid for their service?**

- Members are paid salary and expenses for actual disaster response
- Members are reimbursed at state rates for travel expenses during training events and exercises

**Are members “required” to deploy or attend any given training/exercise?**

No. Membership and participation on the MST is on a voluntary basis. Members can accept or decline any given request for deployment/participation.

**How long is an MST deployment?**

Deployments can last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. Any team member can limit his/her availability to accommodate their full-time work and other personal obligations.

**Will the MST deploy outside of California?**

The EMS Authority’s intent is that MST deployments will be within the State of California. There is a rare potential that another state would request mutual aid, but as with all deployment requests each member will have the option to accept or decline any given request for deployment or participation.

**How will I be contacted for potential MST deployments?**

The EMS Authority will use various means of reaching members – telephone, email, pager, alert/notification systems. Rapid deployment and response is a key element to the MST responsibilities.

**What role will each member fill on the team?**

Based on an individual’s background, training, and skills, he/she will be matched to several potential MST positions, all within the ICS structure. As team members gain experience they will be offered key management or supervisory positions. Upon application a potential new member will have the opportunity to express his/her interest or expertise in certain areas.

**Can an MST member participate and remain “employed” by his/her full-time employer?**

Yes, if an entity agrees to “lend” the employee to the EMS Authority for MST participation he/she can maintain their regular employment status for the purposes of insurance coverage, salary, benefits, etc.

**Is insurance coverage provided if the MST member participates independent of his/her full-time employer?**

Yes, the State provides both Workers Compensation and Liability insurance coverage for all MST member participation.

## Can I apply for the MST if I have not taken the formal EMS Authority's MST training?

Yes, an individual's training or on-the-job experience may provide them with the skills and knowledge needed to participate.

## How do I apply to participate on the MST?

An application can be requested from the EMS Authority by contacting:

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