



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

**Bill J. Crouch**  
Cabinet Secretary

June 11, 2021

To: Emergency Medical Services Personnel and Agencies

This correspondence is to reaffirm the existing policy of the Department of Health and Human Resources, that rapid response fire departments certified by the West Virginia State Fire Commission are not required to apply for licensure with the Bureau for Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), if that rapid response fire department has in place an agreement with an Emergency Medical Services agency licensed by OEMS that addresses medical direction, training, quality assurance, and liability insurance. In the absence of such an affiliation agreement, certified fire departments are not subject to licensure if they only provide basic life support services while the COVID-19 State of Emergency is in effect.

This policy will be memorialized through emergency rule-making to be effective July 1. In addition, the provisions of Senate Bill 577 (2021) will be incorporated into 64CSR48 with the advice of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, as required by the Emergency Medical Services Act set forth in Senate Bill 67 (2021), and pursuant to all other legislative rule-making procedures, including input from West Virginia agencies providing these services. It is the goal of the Department of Health and Human Resources to ensure that every West Virginian in need of these critical services will have access to them.

Please notify the agency of your interest to be included in stakeholder meetings and/or further communications regarding upcoming agency rule-making in this regard by emailing [Britt.B.Ludwig@wv.gov](mailto:Britt.B.Ludwig@wv.gov).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill".

Bill J. Crouch  
Cabinet Secretary