



# Memorandum: *Changes to Operating EMS Vehicles Policy*

Emergency Health Services - Alberta

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**Date:** March 27, 2026  
**To:** Medical First Response Agency Leaders  
**From:** Alberta Medical First Response Program  
**Subject:** Changes to 'Operating EMS Vehicles' Policy

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Emergency Health Services – Alberta (EHS-Alberta) has updated the 'Operating EMS Vehicles' Policy, which identifies an element that clarifies who can drive EHS-Alberta ambulances and vehicles. The guiding principle of the policy is a commitment to the safe operation of vehicles, including ambulances, mitigating the risk of injuries to patients, emergency response personnel, and the public as it relates to motor vehicle collisions or incidents.

## **What has changed**

The policy specifies that EHS-Alberta vehicles and ambulances shall only be operated by an EHS-Alberta staff member or a Contract Service Partner while on active duty. There is no change in practice for Contract Service Partners who also hold an MFR relationship.

## **Why this matters**

The changes were made to promote and sustain a safe driving culture in EHS for the benefit of patients, staff and the public and to align driving practices with policies, bylaws, legislation, and standards as they relate to operating vehicles. The operator of the ambulance holds primary responsibility for the safety of the patient, the paramedic and the MFR partner supporting care. The safest approach is to ensure the EHS-Alberta employees who have the highest familiarity with the ambulance, its technologies and its unique handling maintain this critical transport responsibility.

## **What this means for MFR Partners**

If requested, MFRs may assist with patient care during transport under the direction of the responsible EHS-Alberta paramedic. This assistance is not needed on every call. MFRs will not be required to perform clinical skills outside of their scope of practice when assisting

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with patient care during transport. The MFR response is centered around the delivery of care and we believe this supports that patient centered principle.

MFR partners have always been patient focused, providing care when assisting paramedics. This change helps ensure that patient focused response remains throughout the events duration. This support is greatly appreciated by EHS and paramedics across the province. We are considering the application of this policy in the context of a single paramedic response and will provide further communication as this element is addressed.

Please reach out to the MFR Program at [mfr@emergencyhealthservices.ca](mailto:mfr@emergencyhealthservices.ca) if further information is needed. Thank you for your dedication to the health and wellbeing of Albertans.