

Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Standard Operating Guideline

Probationary EMS Providers

Revised April 12, 2002

PURPOSE:

Rendering high quality patient care is paramount to the Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company. This policy has been developed to ensure that newly certified EMS providers, or EMS providers new to the Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, meet the minimum competency standards required to render high quality patient care. For the sake of this policy, the term “newly certified” shall also apply to EMS providers who increase their level of care. All New York State Certified First Responders (CFR), Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT) are covered by this policy.

POLICY:

All newly certified EMS providers, or EMS providers new to the Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, shall be placed on probationary status upon receipt of their new or upgraded NYS EMS certification. During this probationary status, the EMS provider is not permitted to act as the senior EMS provider in charge of patient care (or patient care requiring the level of care they have been newly certified to perform). Probationary EMS providers shall not take any calls on the ambulance unless accompanied by a senior non-probationary EMS provider capable of rendering the required level of patient care. The probationary EMS provider shall take a minimum of twenty-five calls, under the supervision of a senior EMS provider, prior to being removed from probationary status. Additionally, an EMS officer must review the competency of the probationary EMS provider and approve the termination of probationary status. During the probationary status, the probationary EMS provider shall direct patient care activities under the direct supervision of the senior EMS provider. The senior EMS provider shall ensure that quality patient care is rendered, ensure that protocols are followed and shall guide the probationary EMS provider when necessary. The probationary period is meant as an opportunity for probationary EMS providers to gain experience and additional education in a real-world setting. Additionally, the probationary period serves as an opportunity for senior EMS providers to evaluate the competency of probationary EMS providers. Upon termination of the probationary period, the EMS provider will be permitted to serve as the EMS provider in charge of patient care and will be eligible to take ambulance calls unaccompanied.

Under certain circumstances, newly certified EMS providers, or EMS providers new to the Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, may be deemed competent to provide quality patient care prior to reaching the twenty-five call minimum. In these unique circumstances, the EMS Chief may make a decision to terminate the probationary period prematurely. It should be noted that early termination of probation is the exception and not the norm.