ALS TRAINING & CERTIFICATION POLICY

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to provide standardization and uniformity in the training, certification and release to general supervision of ALS providers for the City of Virginia Beach.

APPLICABILITY:

This policy is directed toward the eligibility, selection, training, certification, and continuing education of the EMT-Enhanced (EMT-E), EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I) and Paramedic (PM) who desires to practice as an ALS provider with the Department of EMS and the Emergency Response System. For the purpose of this document reference to the Department of EMS shall signify any member of the Emergency Response System. This policy is to be utilized in conjunction with the Department Minimum Training and Certification Policy and TEMS Field Internship Guidelines.

PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS:

I. ALS Course Sponsorship and Field Internship

The Department shall publish an application and process for personnel applying for ALS course sponsorship and applying for an ALS field internship (including ALS release internship) with the Department for course completion. Sponsorship denotes an active student status at an approved and OEMS accredited ALS training institute.

The Fire Department shall publish an application and process to recommend Fire Department personnel to sponsorship and ALS field internship.

II. Scholarship

The Department will publish applications and criteria for scholarships to be awarded to non-probational active operational volunteer rescue squad members in good standing to complete ALS training certification programs of study. These scholarships shall be awarded on a semester basis, funds available to a Department approved and OEMS accredited ALS program.
Students completing the second semester of EMT-I must have satisfactorily completed all first and second semester course, clinical, and field internship requirements and have passed the National Registry EMT-I exams to be considered for scholarship to the Paramedic program classes.

III. Contracts

Scholarship students shall sign a standardized contract each semester obligating them to repay the Department’s costs of the scholarship should they fail to meet requirements outlined in the contract. City of Virginia Beach employees shall not be required to sign a contract.

A. Default
   If any contractual term is not fulfilled the contract may be defaulted. Payment for defaulted contracts will be due immediately.

IV. Preceptors

A. Preceptors will be assigned based on availability and regional and course requirements.

   1. ALS field internship (student)
      The Department will assign the student to a shift for their ALS field internship to meet their educational objectives.

   2. ALS internship under strict supervision (intern)
      The Department will assign the ALS intern on strict supervision to a shift supervisor and preceptor and provide the objectives and benchmarks for successful recommendation to release under general supervision.

V. Progress, Reporting and Course Completion Requirements

Progress of students sponsored in ALS courses and field will be monitored on a regular basis by both their preceptor and assigned shift Captain. The training Captain will maintain a tracking mechanism, evaluations and reports. Students and interns shall submit evaluations to both their educational institution as required and the EMS training captain. It shall be the sole responsibility of the student and intern to submit evaluations as required.
VI. ALS Certification and Testing Fees

The Department of EMS will provide the testing fee for the first Virginia EMT Enhanced exam, the first National Registry EMT-Intermediate exam and the first National Registry Paramedic exam for each sponsored student. Students who fail the certification exams two consecutive times will be dropped from the program and any contract will be defaulted.

VII. Regional Testing

A. Regional testing will be required based on current regional policy.

B. The Department will not provide funding for any required remediation.

VIII. ALS Release Process

The Department will publish a process and application for certified Department ALS members to function under strict supervision as an ALS intern in order to qualify for release under general supervision. This process will be in addition to regional EMS requirements but may include those requirements.

When the ALS intern has completed the objectives of the ALS release process the EMS Chief in consultation with the Medical Director will make the final decision regarding release to function under general supervision. The ALS Intern must meet with the Chief of EMS or his designee before being released.

IX. ALS Continuing Education and Recertification

A. ALS providers recertifying must meet the requirements for the ALS provider test waiver requirements of the certifying body and it is the provider’s responsibility to provide copies of their current Virginia certification and CPR card (and ACLS for paramedics) to the Department.

X. Supervision and Sponsorship Withdraw

The EMS Chief and/or Operational Medical Director may withdraw sponsorship of a student or the privilege to function under strict supervision of an ALS intern at any time. The EMS Chiefs decision is final and may not be grieved.
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This policy shall become effective upon approval of the Operational Medical Director and the EMS Chief.

APPROVED:

Bruce W. Edwards       Date          Stewart W. Martin, MD  Date
EMS Chief              Operational Medical Director

Originated     Revised
9/13/2004     8/27/2012