Continuing Education - CE
Reference Riverside County EMS CE Policy #3100 for additional information.

In California, EMT-Is are required to obtain 24 hours of current EMS education in order to recertify. This may be obtained by attending multiple CE classes OR by attending a singular designated EMT-I Refresher class offered by an approved training center.

CEs obtained MUST be thru an approved EMS CE provider, a qualifying college course, or have CECBEMS approval. Courses approved by other bodies (BRN, CME, etc) will not be accepted in lieu of EMS CE. Approved California EMS CE providers will/must/are required to advertise their approval number when they advertise their classes. Approved California EMS CE providers will have an approval number, XX – XXXX. Some counties add additional digits to the approval number to designate the class, XX – XXXX – xxx. Courses approved by CECBEMS will also advertise their approval number. Always look for the approval number and do not assume courses are approved if this number is not given. CEs will not be given after-the-fact to classes taken but not originally approved as CE, even though they may be EMS related.

CEs must have been taken within the two years prior to recertification (during the current certification period if the applicant has not lapsed).

Of the minimum 24 CE hours required for recertification, 50%, or at least 12 hours, must be obtained through an instructor-based learning format. Other options to obtain CEs include structured clinical time, structured teaching time, advanced topics (certain classes pertinent to EMS but not within EMT-I scope of practice – ex. EKGs, ACLS), and distance learning/media-based classes (including on-line, mail-order, take-home, and video formats). Field care audits taken through Riverside County CE providers qualify as instructor-based classes.

In order to obtain CEs, a person must not only attend the course or complete the packet, but must PASS the course exam AND complete a course evaluation. Once having done that, (s)he will be issued a course completion certificate which states his/her name, the name of the course, the date, and the provider’s approval number. It is the individual EMT-I’s responsibility to keep all original certificates for at least 4 years. Should an EMT-I be audited, these certificates will be proof of completion. Copies will not be accepted. Files kept by employers will not be accepted. Only original certificates will be considered valid.

In most instances, taking the same course twice will not be accepted. However, those nationally recognized courses such as CPR, PHTLS, BBP and other such courses needed for employment and required to be taken every two years will be accepted for credit twice, provided they are taken from an approved EMS CE provider.