

## **10A NCAC 13P .0210 WATER AMBULANCE: WATERCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

To be permitted as a Water Ambulance, a watercraft shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) The watercraft shall have a patient care area that:
  - (a) provides access to the head, torso, and lower extremities of the patient while providing sufficient working space to render patient care;
  - (b) is covered to protect the patient and EMS personnel from the elements; and
  - (c) has an opening of sufficient size to permit the safe loading and unloading of a person occupying a litter.
- (2) The watercraft shall have on board patient care equipment and supplies as defined in the "North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians: Standards for Medical Oversight and Data Collection," incorporated by reference in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.6, including subsequent amendments and editions. This document is available from the OEMS, 2707 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2707, at no cost. The equipment and supplies shall be clean, in working order, and secured in the vehicle.
- (3) Water ambulances shall have the name of the EMS Provider permanently displayed on each side of the watercraft.
- (4) Water ambulances shall have a 360-degree beacon warning light in addition to warning devices required in Chapter 75A, Article 1, of the North Carolina General Statutes.
- (5) Water ambulances shall be equipped with:
  - (a) two floatable rigid long backboards with proper accessories for securing infant, pediatric, and adult patients and stabilization of the head and neck;
  - (b) one floatable litter with patient restraining straps and capable of being secured to the watercraft;
  - (c) one fire extinguisher mounted in a quick release bracket that is either a dry chemical or all-purpose type and has a pressure gauge;
  - (d) lighted compass;
  - (e) radio navigational aids such as ADF (automatic directional finder), Satellite Global Navigational System, navigational radar, or other comparable radio equipment suited for water navigation;
  - (f) marine radio; and
  - (g) the availability of one pediatric restraint device to safely transport pediatric patients under 40 pounds in the patient compartment of the ambulance;
- (6) The water ambulance shall not have structural or functional defects that may adversely affect the patient, the EMS personnel, or the safe operation of the watercraft.
- (7) Water ambulances shall have a copy of the EMS System patient care treatment protocols.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 131E-157(a); 143-508(d)(8);  
Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 2002;  
Eff. April 1, 2003;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 2009; January 1, 2004.