



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Thomas A. Stith III, President

February 8, 2021

Public Safety Memo PS21-03 **This memo is superseded by memo PS22-01 for section noted below. ENCRS is waiver-eligible as of 12/20/21 per details in PS22-01 update.**

To: Senior Continuing Education Administrators

From: Tracy McPherson, Director, Public Safety Training Programs
North Carolina Community College System

RE: **Eastern North Carolina Rescue Squad (ENCRS)
Clarification of Registration Fee Waivers for Rescue Squads**

The purpose of this memo is to address questions we have received about the definition of “rescue squads” as it relates to fee waivers authorized by the State Board of Community Colleges per General Statute 115D-5(b).

We have received several questions related specifically to the registration fee-waiver eligibility of persons affiliated with an entity called the Eastern North Carolina Rescue Squad (ENCRS), located in Pitt County. Our research indicates that currently no official entity recognizes this organization to perform any level of public-safety response in our state. Therefore, our office’s determination is that ENCRS does not currently meet eligibility for any public safety registration fee waivers. We notified Mr. Dillon Tschrnko, Chief Officer of Eastern North Carolina Rescue Squad, of this on September 14, 2020, with the qualifier that if ENCRS’s status were to change as related to its authority to act in an emergency situation that it could be eligible in the future. **See PS22-01 for Update.**

To assist colleges in making fee waiver determinations related to rescue squads and other similar response entities, we provide the following guidance:

The terms “**rescue and lifesaving department**,” “**rescue squad**,” and “**search and rescue team**” refer to entities affiliated with a municipal, county, or state governmental body with the authority to respond to an emergency. This affiliation is established when an entity is recognized by the governmental body having jurisdiction and includes agencies and authorities such as the NC Office of Emergency Medical Services, NC Emergency Management, NC Office of State Fire Marshal, and county or state Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). This affiliation ensures that the agencies/employees/volunteers have official “authority to act” in an emergency situation, as granted by one of these governmental entities.

To ensure that this guidance is accessible, this clarifying definition may be found in the October 16, 2020, agenda ([FC-08](#)) and minutes of the State Board of Community Colleges. It will also be added to *the Tuition and Registration Fee Waiver Reference Guide* ([CC18-053](#)) when it is updated.

Thank you for your support of public safety training and your diligence in applying fee waivers appropriately. If you have questions, please contact me at mcpheasant@nccommunitycolleges.edu.

C: Dr. Kimberly Gold Nate Humphrey