



First Responder

When you have a medical emergency and dial 9-1-1 your call is forwarded to the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) dispatch and an ambulance will respond as soon as possible. Once the ambulance is dispatched, the BCAS dispatchers will forward the information to the 'first-responder' fire department in the region. The Fire Department dispatch will send fire apparatus right away, many times the Fire Department is the first to arrive and begins to provide quality patient care until the ambulance arrives.

Professional firefighters are trained and licensed to provide pre-hospital care to people who are injured or experiencing a medical problem, from a choking child, to a person suffering from a heart attack or a fall. In 2008, 61% of our incidents were medical incidents.

Every first response unit carries an automatic external defibrillator (AED). Use of an AED within the crucial 4-6 minutes from time of arrest will significantly increase the survival chances for patients.

All staff are now trained to the 'First Responder - Level III' standard which includes spinal immobilization, CPR and AED certifications.

