

Introduction to EMS

Chapter 1



Jeff Mitchell / Reuters

Your actions can prevent minor situations from becoming major & may save a life

Goals of 1st responder training

- Teaches you to

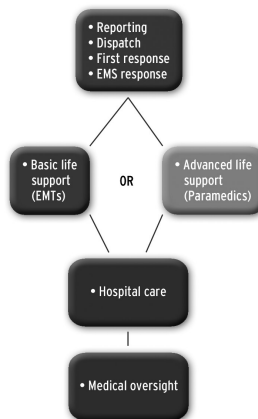
- Need to know how to
 - Improvise
 - Assist more trained medical personnel

- Know what you should not do
- Know how to use your 1st responder life support kit

- Why was EMS developed?
- The quicker you Rx the pt, the better chance they have of surviving

The Emergency Medical Services System

- Reporting:
- Dispatch: Appropriate equipment and personnel are dispatched to scene.
- First response: Fire fighters or law enforcement personnel are often first on scene.
- EMS response: EMT-Bs, EMT-Is, or paramedics arrive shortly thereafter.
- Hospital care:



Reporting

- Reporting of an incident activates the system.
- Dispatch center usually receives the call.
- Enhanced 9-1-1 centers can determine location of caller.



Dispatch

- Appropriate equipment and personnel are dispatched to the scene.



First Response

- Fire fighters and law enforcement personnel are likely to be first on scene.
- Most communities have more first responders than EMTs or paramedics.



EMS Response

- BLS unit stabilizes patient and prepares for transport.
- ALS is the next line of defense
- ALS personnel can administer IV fluids, certain medications, and monitor and treat heart conditions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EMTs continue Rx started by 1st responder ■ EMTs stabilize pt further ■ Each level of skill builds on the previous level

	<p>Hospital Care (3rd contact)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Special facilities include burn centers, pediatric centers, poison control centers, perinatal centers, and trauma centers. ■ Follow your local patient transportation protocols.
	

	<p>Nat'l Highway Traffic Safety Administration of the US Dept of Transportation evals EMS systems based on:</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regulation/policy ■ Resource management ■ Human resources/training ■ Transportation ■ Medical/support facilities ■ Communications ■ Public information/education

	<p>Roles and Responsibilities of the 1st Responder</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Respond promptly. ■ Protect yourself. ■ Protect scene and patients from further harm.

Roles and Responsibilities of the 1st Responder

- Perform patient assessment.
- Administer emergency medical care and reassurance.
- Move patients only when necessary.

Roles and Responsibilities of the 1st Responder

- Control activities of bystanders.
- Assist EMTs and paramedics, as necessary.
- Document your care.
- Keep your knowledge and skills up-to-date.

Documentation

- Should be clear, concise, accurate, and in accordance with accepted policies
- Serves as a legal record of treatment

(1 of 2)

Documentation

- Initial condition of patient
- Patient's description of injury or illness
- Initial and later vital signs
- Treatment given

(2 of 2)

Attitude and Conduct

- Professional behavior has a positive impact on patients.
- Be calm, caring, and considerate of patients' privacy.

(1 of 2)

Attitude and Conduct

- A professional attitude and appearance provide reassurance to the patient.



(2 of 2)

Medical Oversight

- Direct: Physician is in contact with prehospital EMS providers, usually by two-way radio or wireless telephone.
- Indirect: Physician directs training courses, helps set medical policies, and ensures quality management of the EMS system.