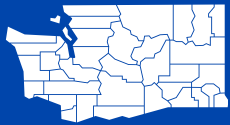


EMS System Overview

for Community Midwives

It's important for effective teamwork and collaboration that all parties involved in patient care have a shared understanding of scope of practice, provider capabilities, and established protocols.

EMS AGENCIES



EMS can be provided by fire protection agencies, private ambulance services, or public hospital districts. Protocols vary regionally, usually by county.



MPD OVERSIGHT

EMTs may practice medicine by an extension of a Medical Program Director Physician's License. The MPD is responsible for evaluating, updating, and ensuring compliance of approved protocols.



STANDING ORDERS

Written protocols define the range of medical procedures and interventions that EMS providers are allowed to perform in the field without direct oversight.



EMT-B (BLS)

These providers are trained to provide Basic Life Support (BLS). They have a limited scope which includes oxygenation and airway control, and some PO medications. Most Firefighters are EMT-B certified.



EMT-P (ALS)

Also called Paramedics. They provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) and are trained to perform invasive procedures such as IVs, intubation, and administration of IV medications.



DISPATCH

911 Dispatchers follow Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocols, and emergency response level (ALS/BLS) is triaged based on information received by the call taker.

YOUR LOCAL RESPONDER

To find your local EMS agencies, go to <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/ems/index.html> and choose the "Agency Primary Response Area" Map Layer



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Smooth Transition's Website at qualityhealth.org/smoothtransitions

