



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Advanced Life Support (ALS)?

Answer: Advanced Life Support is the highest level of pre-hospital medical care possible. In addition to Basic Life Support medical skills such as splinting broken bones, delivering babies, monitoring vital signs, or administering oxygen, our highly trained paramedics are able to:

- Start IV's to administer fluids and medications
- Perform and interpret EKG's which monitor a patient's heart rhythm/rate
- Monitor a patient's blood sugar
- Perform a surgical cricoidotomy or endotracheal intubation to maintain a patient's airway
- Shock a patient's heart which is in an abnormal rhythm or use our advanced monitor as a pacemaker when a patient's heart rate is too slow
- Administer an array of advanced medications which can be used to treat allergic reactions, cardiac dysrhythmias, low blood sugar, drug overdoses, chest pain/heart attack, difficulty in breathing, low blood pressure, and other common medical conditions
- Administer CPAP which is a mask like device that uses positive air pressure to treat patients who have fluid in their lungs

What happens when I call 911?

Answer: When you call 911 your call is answered by the 911 dispatch center which is usually the Macomb County Sheriff's Department. They then alert our pagers which inform us of the call type, location of the call, and any other pertinent details about the call. Personnel on-duty at the station immediately respond with the appropriate equipment and paid-on-call personnel respond from home to either the scene or the station depending on what additional resources are needed.

Why do your vehicles use lights and sirens, even in the middle of the night when there is no traffic?

Answer: The purpose of emergency warning equipment is to let drivers and pedestrians know that an emergency vehicle is on the way to an emergency. By Michigan state law, we do have

certain privileges extended to us. Those being, to carefully proceed through controlled intersections and travel against the designated flow of traffic. These privileges have rules that the legislation and department policy put on the drivers of these emergency vehicles. The main rule is that we cannot do these things unless there are lights flashing and sirens going. Even in the middle of the night.

Why do firefighters use fire trucks for non-emergency purposes such as going to the grocery store while they are on duty?

Answer: To ensure the most effective service at the time of an emergency, our crews must remain in their designated response territory with their assigned emergency vehicle during their entire shift. Our crews work 24-hour shifts with no scheduled breaks, and meals are not provided by the Township. Personnel on each shift must purchase their own food, so they may make a daily trip to the grocery store within the service area to buy what they need to prepare their meals for the entire shift.

Fire and Medic crews do not have to be sitting in the fire station to be dispatched to a call. Since all Township units maintain constant radio contact with dispatch and the crew must always be together with their truck, they are always ready to respond to any emergency, regardless of their current location or non-emergency assignment.

What if you are out of ambulances?

Answer: Currently we have three Advanced Life Support ambulances. If we are on multiple medical calls at the same time we have a pre-designated mutual-aid agreement with surrounding agencies to cover one another's community. This agreement ensures that in the event we are out of ambulances another Advanced Life Support ambulance will be staged in our community in case another medical call is received.

Does the Armada Township Fire Department charge for services?

Answer: We do not charge for fire and rescue services because of a special assessment for fire department services covered by property taxes. Current Armada Township or Village residents do not pay any out of pocket fees for Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance services because of an ALS millage. Nonresidents may still receive a bill for ALS ambulance services.

What hospital can I choose to go to?

Answer: We may transport you to one of the following hospital locations; however, our trained paramedics may determine that you may need to go to a closer medical facility to provide you

with the most appropriate medical treatment in the timeliest manner. We may also transport you or your loved one to a medical facility not listed if a specialized treatment is only offered at a further medical facility and if approved by the medical facility in which we would have transported to initially.

Macomb County Hospitals

McLaren Macomb Hospital and Certified Trauma Center

1000 Harrington Blvd.

Mount Clemens, MI 48043

(586) 493-8000

Henry Ford Macomb Hospital

15855 19 Mile Road

Clinton Township, MI 48038

(586) 263-2300

Oakland County Hospitals

Troy Beaumont Hospital

44201 Dequindre Road

Troy, MI 48085

(248) 964-5000

Crittenton Medical Center

1101 West University Drive

Rochester Hills, MI 48307

(248) 652-5000

St. Clair County Hospitals

Port Huron Hospital

1221 Pine Grove Avenue

Port Huron, MI 48060

(810)987.5000

Port Huron Mercy Hospital

2601 Electric Avenue

Port Huron, MI 48060

(810) 985-1500

St. John River District

4100 River Rd

East China Township, MI 48054

810-329-7111