

EMS RESPONSE AND TRANSPORT

Relative Information: In 1974, the Board of Directors determined that the District should provide emergency medical services (EMS). Since that time the District has systematically upgraded its apparatus, equipment, and training to keep up with changing technology and standards. Statistically over 70% of all District calls for service are medically related.

The District provides basic and advanced life support response services. Although the District maintains transport capabilities, the primary responsibility for emergency ambulance transport is assigned to Mercy Flights Ambulance by Jackson County. Jackson County is responsible under state law to assign Ambulance Service Areas (ASA) that covers the entire county to specific providers. The District maintains its transport capability and coordinates both on-scene and transport services with Mercy Flights. The District may transport patients under certain conditions:

1. When medically prudent; i.e., delay in waiting for a transport ambulance will adversely affect the patient.
2. When multiple patients require transport services beyond the capability of arriving ambulances.
3. When patient care will be enhanced by maintaining the continuity of treatment being provided by the on-scene District paramedic.

The District EMS program is monitored both internally and externally. The District maintains an internal quality control review program and participates in the County Physician Supervisor program. Every agency maintaining emergency medical technicians, regardless of certification level, is required by state law to have a medical doctor provide physician supervisor services. State law defines the scope of these services.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Board of Directors to maintain apparatus, equipment, and staffing necessary to provide advanced life support EMS response medical services.

It is further the policy of the Board to maintain transport capability, participate in the County EMS systems and programs, coordinate its medical response service with the County appointed ASA ambulance provider and, based on the presumption of good patient care, provide transport services when it is in the best interest of the patient.