



WHEN TO CALL AN AMBULANCE

Should I call an ambulance?

- Is the condition life-threatening?
- Could the condition worsen and become life-threatening on the way to the hospital?
- Could moving the victim cause further injury?
- Does the victim require the skills and equipment of paramedics or EMTs?
- Could distance, traffic, or weather conditions cause a delay in getting to the hospital?



If you answered yes to any of the following questions, or you are unsure, call an ambulance.

Tips for Calling an Ambulance

- Speak calmly and clearly.
- Give the name, address, phone number, and location of the person in need (e.g., upstairs in the bedroom), and describe the nature of the problem.
- Don't hang up until the dispatcher tells you to. The dispatcher may need more information.
- Teach your children how to place an emergency call, in case you are seriously ill or injured.
- For highway emergencies, know the nearest highway marker number, and if dealing with a wreck, know how to identify the lanes (e.g., northbound) on the highway so you can give that information to the dispatcher.

Remember, some rural areas may not have 911 access. Find out before an emergency occurs if you have 911 service in your area. If you do not have service, get the telephone number for the local Emergency Medical Service and keep it handy.

If calling 911 from a mobile phone, remember that the dispatcher does not have detailed information on your location. Make an attempt to find the nearest intersection to help responders arrive on location sooner.

For more information, visit

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What types of situations require emergency transportation?

- Heart attacks & severe chest pain
- Strokes
- Bleeding profusely
- Head injuries
- Trouble breathing
- Serious burns
- Broken bones protruding through the skin
- Unresponsiveness or coma
- Drug overdose
- Heat stroke
- Drowning

Benefits of emergency transportation

Calling an ambulance has many benefits over driving to the hospital on your own. Ambulances are staffed with Emergency Medical Technicians who are:

- Trained in handling medical emergencies
- Able to provide medical attention en-route to the hospital
- Prepared to handle the situation if it worsens
- Able to navigate through traffic much more quickly
- Able to communicate with the hospital during transport
- Aware of the best route to the hospital
- Aware of road conditions and traffic



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