



Emcomm Volunteer

The Reality: During the 65 year period between January 1, 1956 and April 1, 2020, Virginia has declared a state of emergency 68 times. Warren County has been included in those declarations 21 times, or almost 31% of the time. The majority of these declarations have been for weather-related emergencies (i.e., 8 declarations for hurricane, 8 for severe storms/flooding, 1 for fire, 1 for the 9/11 terrorist attack, 1 for the 1996 blizzard, and 2 for the Covid-19 pandemic).

Since over 40,000 people reside in the 213 square mile area that makes up Warren County, being prepared when an emergency arises is no small feat. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is comprised of volunteers who play a vital role in Warren County's Emergency Management strategy. Specifically, volunteers serve in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and provide Emergency Communications (Emcomm).

Commitment: Volunteers should commit to being at all trainings and tabletop exercises, when possible. They are also expected to serve in their volunteer roles with the EOC during emergency events.

Training: It. Check the [events tab](#) on this website to find training opportunities.

Judgment: CERT volunteers must be able to make reasonable decisions for the community. They think through challenges logically, and seek to address problems proactively. They learn from their own, and others', past mistakes.

Teamwork: CERT volunteers put the overall mission ahead of their personal interests and strive to work well with others. They demonstrate their support for fellow volunteers and dedicated staff by acting respectfully when differences of opinion or past experiences are present.

Communication: Effective EMS providers recognize that tone of voice, body language and what is written affect individuals differently. Therefore, they communicate in clear, concise ways, remaining positive in all aspects of communication.

Empathy: Responds to others appropriately, respectfully and helpfully, while remaining calm, compassionate and competent.

Concern for the Community: EMS providers are willing to serve others. The desire to rescue those experiencing a medical emergency is crucial to top performance. They show sensitivity towards every citizen in need.

Concern for self: EMS providers also know how to protect themselves from infectious diseases and take precautions to reduce injuries on scene or when transporting patients. Care is given to decontamination when exposed at the scene of toxic spills or fires. Beyond the physical risks, EMS providers must care for their emotional and psychological wellbeing and recognize how to intervene when symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disease (PTSD) first appear.

A flowchart of the volunteer process appears on the next page and an overview of the basics is found after the chart:

Introduction to EMS Operations

YOU ARE HERE
Warren County Fire and Rescue
New Volunteer Orientation

CPR & First Aid-4 Hours
These courses are available through WCFR every other month. Please see Training Advisory for next available date. This is required before riding on any apparatus.

Ambulance Aide Training-20 Hours
This training is completed using the "Ambulance Aide" Tab of your "Rookie Book". Once completed the volunteer will be knowledgeable to act as an assistant to the provider while responding to ambulance calls. This training is recommended for anyone planning to complete the Emergency Medical Technician Certification.

Emergency Medical Technician
156 Hours

**Basic Life Support Level
Additional Training Opportunities**
Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP)- 8 Hours
Pediatric Emergency Assessment, Recognition, and Stabilization (PEARS)- 8 Hours
Geriatric Education for Emergency Medical Services (GEMS)- 8 Hours
International Trauma Life Support (ITLS)- 8 Hours

Advanced Emergency Medical Technician-
150 Hours

Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician
340 Hours

Advanced Life Support Level Additional Training Opportunities
Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)- 16 Hours
Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)- 16 Hours
Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP)- 16 Hours
Geriatric Education for Emergency Medical Services (GEMS)- 16 Hours
International Trauma Life Support (ITLS)- 16 Hours

Paramedic
917 Hours

Introduction to EMS Operations

OVERVIEW

It is important to understand that over 80% of the calls we receive are for Emergency Medical Services. You will be expected to know everything assigned by your station in order to assist on these calls, to include where every piece of equipment is on the ambulance.

DRESS CODE

Each Company has their own uniform to wear when responding to calls. First, volunteers should wear clean, properly fitted clothing. This is to prevent risks--both for you and the patient. Shoes must be fully enclosed with toes covered; boots or sneakers are the best options for footwear. You are encouraged to wear department or company shirts, so that members can be distinguished from everyone else when responding to calls. In the event a volunteer is wearing a non-uniform shirt, it needs to be appropriate and free of any offensive language or graphics. Overall appearance should be clean and professional. To keep yourself and others safe, you must follow the standards in place for these uniforms.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

It is imperative for volunteers to understand the importance of infection control by wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) when having patient contact or cleaning up afterward. This equipment acts as a barrier to protect both the responder and the patient from infectious materials. PPE includes gloves, facemasks, respirators and protective clothing, as necessary. In addition, it is also important to wash your hands after each patient contact.