

EMS IMPACTS

QUALITY OF LIFE IN GARDEN CITY

When Garden City was established in the early 1930's, there was little or no system in place for the care of ill or injured people outside of a hospital or doctor's office. By the early 60's, a career fire department was established to look after the communities emergency services, and in 1965, the department began offering rescue squad service using first-aid trained firefighters to replace the funeral home coaches and police station wagons of earlier years. About the same time, the federal government released a study detailing the tremendous loss of life from highway accidents and the need for a system of emergency care. Garden City firefighters upgraded to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) status in the early '70's, completing additional training and acquiring slightly more sophisticated equipment. In 1985, the department again upgraded it's level of service, becoming the first Wayne County fire department to offer Limited Advanced Life Support with it's IV therapy and advanced airway tools.



In the mid-90's the citizens of Garden City supported the department in the evolution to Advanced Life Support care, using cross-trained firefighter/paramedics to provide the highest level of emergency care outside of a hospital.



Response Capability

Your Garden City Fire Department is staffed by 5-6 firefighters each 24-hour day. The firefighters operate one paramedic ambulance and a similarly-equipped paramedic fire engine that respond to all requests for EMS care in our community. Often both units respond to utilize the additional manpower available on the fire engine. In cases where the ambulance is unavailable on another call, paramedics on the fire engine respond and provide life support care until a neighboring fire department ambulance can arrive to transport patients to a local hospital. In addition to EMS calls, firefighters respond and assist with many other emergencies including fire incidents, hazardous materials problems, wires down and entrapment/rescue problems. Additional apparatus is available for use by off-duty firefighters who can be recalled for major emergencies. This system of using the same people for both fire protection and EMS allows the department to have response professionals on the scene of an emergency in five minutes or less on average, contributing to an unusually high survival rate from serious cardiac emergencies. It also gives citizens the biggest "bang for their buck" by providing all-hazard emergency services most cost effectively.

EMS Services

Your Garden City Fire Department provides on-scene emergency care, including patient assessment, oxygen and IV therapy, administration of over 30 medications, mechanical or surgical control of patient's airway passages and heart monitoring, defibrillation and pacing. After consultation via the HEMS radio

system, paramedics transport patients to **Garden City** or **Oakwood Annapolis Hospitals** for further care. Patients requesting transport to more distant facilities can be transferred after stabilization in the local Emergency Department. It should be noted that all area hospitals use a system of status reporting, which is coordinated by Health Emergency Medical Services (HEMS), a non-profit consortium of hospitals, communities and services located in the Wayne County Health Department. If specific resources are unavailable at a given hospital, for example, a CT scanner, paramedics are advised to route patients requiring such resources to other hospitals. This system assures that each patient is afforded the best possible care, but it sometimes prevents transport to the patients hospital of choice. Your Garden City firefighter-paramedic can advise patients and family members on current hospital availability at the emergency scene.

HOSPITAL AVAILABILITY	
A	Available for all Emergencies
B	Closed to Specific Types of Emergencies
C	Closed to Ambulances except in life-threatening emergencies

Mutual Aid

Your Garden City Fire Department is an active member of the Western Wayne County Fire Department Mutual Aid Association, which comprises eighteen area communities working together to assure quality fire and EMS services for

their citizens. When Garden City resources are committed at emergencies, fire and EMS units from surrounding communities can be called in to assist as needed. Garden City units likewise assist our neighbors upon request. Participation in the Mutual Aid Association also gives Garden City access to the group's elite Hazardous Incident Response Team and membership in HEMS, the regional EMS coordinating agency.

Don't Delay ... Call 9-1-1

Many medical emergencies require prompt intervention to minimize damage and save lives. Medications are available that can significantly reduce the damage caused by heart attacks and strokes if given early in the emergency. Any delay can compound the problem, and leave lasting damage. At the first sign of such an emergency, contact your Garden City Fire Department by dialing 9-1-1. Responding firefighter-paramedics are able to help stabilize such conditions on the scene, then continue care enroute to our local hospitals, where emergency medicine specialists can provide definitive treatment. Rapid transport is no longer preferable to the advanced care that paramedics can offer on the scene of the emergency, so family transport is not generally recommended.

Your Privacy

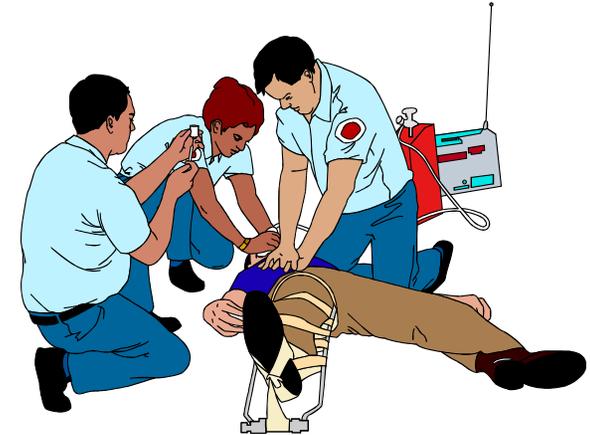
The City of Garden City is committed to protecting your privacy. In accordance with federal law, Garden City firefighters will provide all patients with a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices, which details the ways in which we use your protected health information.



City of Garden City Fire Department

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Office (734) 525-8837
Emergency Dial 9-1-1
www.cityofgardencity.org

Your Emergency Medical Response



Garden City Fire Department