



Things you should know about the 1st Responder Group

The group is made up of dedicated men and women who come from various backgrounds and experiences, most of them have a vast knowledge of Emergency Medicine and health care in general. Some of them only bring a willingness to help others in need. Every member is an Association member and is at the campground a lot during the summer. Since this is a volunteer organization, we cannot promise that someone will show up for every 911 call. If the call comes in during the week there is a good chance no one in the group is at the campground. We believe that the weekends will be well staffed. If the call comes in during the week and we only have one member there, they will show up and start treatment.

As you may or may not know it takes an ambulance 20 – 30 minutes to get to the campground. In some emergencies time is of the essence and by having volunteers able to respond within minutes is vital for a good outcome. We will do an assessment determine what is wrong and initiate basic emergency treatment. We are equipped to handle any emergency that may arise. We will stabilize the patient until the ambulance gets here. We will be able control bleeding, treat for shock, stabilize broken bones, treat for burns, and any trauma injuries. We will be able to use the automatic defibrillator in a sudden cardiac death situation as well give supplemental oxygen while maintaining an airway. We are trained in pediatric as well adult Emergency Medicine.

We will be dispatched at the same time the Little Sioux Fire Department and the Mondamin Rescue squad is, but since they are also made up of volunteers, they may not have anyone available to respond either and then the ambulance from Burgess Memorial Hospital is sent.

We will use Universal Precautions on every call and use the Personal Protective Equipment that is appropriate for the situation. This is for our protection as well as yours. Good hand hygiene will be used on every call.

We ask that everyone please stay away from any area that the emergency is at, if we need help we will ask you. This is to ensure that the ambulance can get to the patient. We will have staff at the front gate to direct the squad to the scene.

Some Association members have raised concerns about the status of the First Responders being vaccinated. I will say that most of the group has been vaccinated and there are a few who have not gotten theirs yet. As of March 30th the CDC reported that only 52% of Health care workers have been vaccinated nationwide. No one can be forced to get vaccinated it is a personnel choice. We will wear face masks and gloves on every call and gowns when appropriate. We will do everything we can to keep you safe.

We hope that our services will not be needed this year, but if you find yourself in an emergency situation please try and remain calm, call 911 ,and give the dispatcher all the information that they need so they can send the right agency to respond.

Be Safe, and have a great summer!