

**EVERY ONE OF OUR
FIREFIGHTERS
IS ALSO A QUALIFIED
MEDICAL RESPONDER;
EVERY FIRE ENGINE
CARRIES ESSENTIAL
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.**

such as heart monitors and oxygen. In fact, there are only two things that an engine and its crew can't provide: transport to the hospital and advanced

life support (or paramedic) services. It is vital to get the closest available unit to an incident as quickly as possible and, often times, that unit may be a fire engine.

Occasionally, engines may respond to provide additional hands to help. Our ambulances generally carry a crew of two – an EMT and a paramedic, or two EMTs. Critical incidents – cardiac arrests, unconscious patients, many heart attacks, some strokes, uncontrolled bleeding, etc – may require more personnel than are provided with a single ambulance.

DOES NKF&R BILL FOR AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS?

Yes. Revenue from the Emergency Medical Services property tax levy funds the cost of first response to medical incidents.

There is never a bill for a medical response.

But the levy doesn't provide enough to fund the additional costs associated with ambulance transports.

To provide transport services, we must purchase and maintain ambulances as well as stock and staff them. Although billing revenue doesn't cover all of these additional expenses, we recover some of the costs by billing patients' health insurers. Many fire departments don't provide any ambulance transport at all and avoid the cost of



operating ambulances by providing first response to medical incidents from fire engines. In those areas, for-profit ambulance companies provide transport services at much higher rates than ours. Furthermore,



private companies' collection policies are far more severe. At

North Kitsap Fire & Rescue, we don't send anyone to collections and work with patients to ensure that our efforts at cost-recovery don't cause anyone financial hardship.

WHAT ARE THE FEES FOR AMBULANCE TRANSPORTS?

NKF&R bills Medicare and other insurance companies \$550.00 per Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance transport plus \$15.00 per mile and \$700.00 or \$750.00 (depending on complexity of care) per Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport plus \$15.00 per mile.

Rates effective 2/1/13

WHY ASK FOR MY BILLING INFORMATION EVERY TIME I'M TRANSPORTED?

This type of information is always changing, and we want to be certain that we've got the most current information for you. However, if your information hasn't changed since your last transport, feel free to forego providing it again and simply write "On File" on the forms we provide.

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS
IMPORTANT TO US.**

WWW.NKFR.ORG

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We'd like to take this opportunity to share with you the answers to our most commonly-asked questions. If you have a question, please don't hesitate to let us know!

WHAT'S THE FASTEST WAY TO GET HELP?

Although we welcome visitors, we discourage coming to the fire station to report emergencies. Citizens

**SECONDS COUNT
IN EMERGENCIES.
CALL 911
TO GET HELP AS
FAST AS POSSIBLE.**

may experience unnecessary delays if crews are out of the station or otherwise unavailable.

The 911 system provides the fastest response by automatically dispatching the closest appropriate unit. It is also risky for the patient and others to drive when seriously injured or ill. Better to call 911, and leave the driving to us.

WHY DO FIRE ENGINES RESPOND TO MEDICAL CALLS?

It's important to note that all of our firefighters are medically-trained, and all of our engines carry essential equipment



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Kingston, WA 98346
(360)297-3619
Twitter at @nkfandr
Facebook at www.facebook/nkfire
Web at www.nkfr.org



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