



Mulvane Fire Rescue

Ambulance Driver

Study Guide

2012

Driver Responsibility

The operation of any ambulance carries with it an enormous responsibility on the part of the driver, not only to the patient and the crew traveling in the vehicle, but to the general public, to the drivers of other emergency vehicles, such as police and fire, and a responsibility to protect costly equipment and lives. Any M.E.S. member, who is presently a driver or who intends to become one must be constantly aware of these responsibilities and must perform accordingly, consciously avoiding unnecessary speed and recklessness, which could lead to serious accidents, injury, and possible death.

The ambulance operator is firstly responsible for the safe transportation of the sick and injured. When transporting the patient to the hospital, it is of utmost importance to remember that the patient is being cared for by skilled crew members and that, except in a few extreme emergency situations, *the ambulance may be operated within normal speed limits*, thus insuring the safety of the patient and the crew and delivering a smoother ride.

The second area of driver responsibility includes preventing injury to the general public, bystanders, and pedestrians, as well as automobile occupants, operators, and occupants of other emergency vehicles. The ambulance driver must learn to avoid heavily congested traffic areas and to be careful and alert for pedestrians and bystanders at the scene of an accident. Never take for granted that red lights and a siren will get the ambulance through a congested area. Keep in mind the automobile driver with his windows rolled up, air conditioning and radio on, and his passengers carrying on a conversation. He or she is not expecting an ambulance, and he/she may not see or hear it. Be alert for other emergency vehicles, especially when approaching red lights and intersections; a policeman with a siren going and an ambulance driver with a siren going will not hear one another. You must be alert to everything around you. Again, the ambulance driver must be extremely alert to the safety of others.

The third important area of driver responsibility is to the protection of the ambulance and all the equipment it carries, a \$150,000 responsibility. The City of Mulvane has generously provided funds to insure that these emergency services are available, and it is the responsibility of the driver to protect that valuable investment with all the skill and care he possesses.

Driver training and driving an emergency vehicle must be approached with seriousness. The need for continued good judgment cannot be stressed enough. It is necessary to be alert, conscientious, and safety-minded at all times with constant regard to protecting the patients, the crew, the public, the vehicle and its equipment. Remember, you are driving a well-known vehicle and if you screw up, the public will remember the name of the rig.

Vehicle Operations

Before any member may begin driver training, he or she must be fully familiar with the location of all standard controls and equipment commonly found on any vehicle plus the location, and function. Drivers must be able to use all special emergency vehicle controls.

Operation of the Ambulance – Non-Emergency Traffic

The ambulances are driven on a non-emergency or non-call basis most frequently for the purpose of driver training and for service to both vehicles.

The procedure for removing the ambulance from the station should be done in the following manner:

1. Open the overhead door.
2. Check rear-view and side-view mirrors
3. Ignition on and start
4. Release emergency brake if applied
5. Pull out onto apron, clearing doorway
6. Put door down and check to make sure it is down
7. Notify dispatch when responding
8. Watch for vehicle traffic entering M.E.S. drive way.
9. Proceed with business, obeying all normal traffic laws operating vehicle as non-emergency vehicle.

The procedure of returning to the station should be as follows:

1. Open door
2. Back into building using side-view mirrors
3. Position ambulance next to white line
4. Set gear in Park
5. Turn ignition off
6. Close door
7. Plug in shore line

Operation of Vehicle – Emergency Traffic

The major factor in determining whether a call should be handled as an emergency call is whether or not the speed at which you travel is going to make the difference between saving the life or losing the life of the patient.

The following is the procedure to use when responding to an emergency or urgent call:

1. Check incident location on map (Mirrors & seat should already be set, driver should do this when he/she first come on duty.)
2. Open door.
3. Ignition on and start
4. Release emergency brake if applied
5. Pull out into apron, clearing doorway
6. Put door down, and check it in side-view mirror
7. Check crew is seated before pulling out
8. Watch for vehicle traffic entering M.E.S. drive way.
9. Turn on lights and siren before exiting driveway.
10. The siren should always be used when you are responding in an emergency situation.
11. As cars move to the right, check oncoming traffic and if clear, pass on left.
12. *Intersections:*
 - a. Traffic lights-blow siren well in advance of intersection. Slow down as you approach the intersection and check light and traffic. If green, check traffic flow, watching for turning vehicles, then proceed through the intersection looking both ways. If the light is red, *stop*, blow siren continuously, look both ways, and check that all traffic has come to a stop. Proceed through only when safe.
 - b. Other intersections (2-way or 4-way stop)-blow siren well in advance of intersection. Slow down checking flow of traffic. Proceed *only* when all traffic has come to a halt. It is necessary to come to a complete stop before proceeding through the intersection.
13. *Arrival at Scene:* Radio on scene, position ambulance as follows:
 - a. out of flow of traffic
 - b. for ease of loading stretcher
 - c. in direction of hospital if possible
14. At scene, leave ambulance running, put in Park, and set emergency brake, leaving lights on
15. Once loaded, check all doors, specifically the back door (*driver should be last one in*), door lights, silent signals, and buzzers
16. Once en route to hospital, radio the dispatcher, announce hospital destination, and give mileage.
17. Do not use siren when approaching hospital property
18. Turn off lights when on hospital property
19. Radio dispatcher that you have arrived at the hospital and give ending mileage
20. Park in the appropriate parking area, leaving room for other ambulances to pull in. 21. Turn ambulance, and batteries off.
22. Assist with unloading patient and if necessary to leave vehicle, secure it before doing so and take the key.
23. Return to station according to regular traffic laws. Radio back in service.
24. Back into station. Advise dispatcher that you are in quarters
25. Leave rig and equipment clean and orderly and ready for next use.
26. Plug in shore line

Radio Operating Procedures

The driver is responsible for communicating his/her movement and whereabouts to the Police department dispatcher when the ambulance leaves the station for any reason. Drivers and driver trainees must review the radio communication procedure. Examples of N.I.M.S. compliant radio traffic are shown below.

- 1) Ambulance 450 en route to _____
(address)
- 2) Ambulance 450 on scene
- 3) Ambulance 450 en route to _____, normal/emergency
traffic, pt. triage, and mileage (hospital)
- 4) Ambulance 450 at _____, ending mileage.
(hospital)
- 5) Ambulance 450 finished with last assignment, en route back to quarters.
- 6) Ambulance 450 available in quarters
- 7) Ambulance 450 available in the city (Used for driver training, street familiarization, and going to store)

Hospital Routes

The ambulance driver is responsible for knowing the most direct routes to the hospitals most commonly used. This will usually involve knowing more than one route to each hospital.

Following are road directions to Via Christi St. Joseph, Via Christi St. Francis, HCA Wesley, Veterans Affairs Hospital, Sumner County Regional Medical Center (Wellington) and William Newton Memorial Hospital (Winfield).

Mulvane Emergency Services EMS Division Recommended Hospital Routes Guide:

**Via Christi St. Joseph
3600 E. Harry
Wichita, KS**

K-15 Route

- 1) North to I-135
- 2) I-135 North to Harry St. Exit
- 3) Turn Right on Harry St.
- 4) Turn Left on Clifton, turn Right at ER Drive

Rock Road Route

- 1) North to Harry St
- 2) Turn Left on Harry St
- 3) Turn Right on Clifton, turn Right at ER Drive

Alternate Routes

- 1) K-15 North to 31st S.
- 2) Right on 31st to Hillside
- 3) Turn Left on Hillside, proceed to Harry St
- 4) Turn Right on Harry St., proceed to Clifton and turn Left
- 5) Turn Right at ER Drive

**Via Christi St. Francis
929 N. St. Francis
Wichita, KS.**

K-15 Route

- 1) North to I-135
- 2) I-135 North to 8th /9th St. Exit
- 3) Left on 8th/Murdock St., proceed to Emporia St.
- 4) Turn Right on Emporia, proceed straight to ER Drive

Rock Road Route

- 1) North to Kellogg Dr.
- 2) Turn Left on Kellogg Dr.,
- 3) Proceed to I-135 and follow directions 2-4 of K-15 Route

**HCA Wesley
550 N. Hillside
Wichita, KS**

K-15 Route

- 1) North to I-135
- 2) I-135 North to 1st/2nd St Exit
- 3) Turn Right on 1st St., proceed to Grove St
- 4) Turn Left on Grove St, proceed to Central
- 5) Turn Right on Central, proceed to Hillside
- 6) Turn Left on Hillside, proceed to ER Drive and turn Right

Rock Road Route

- 1) North on to Kellogg
- 2) Turn Left on Kellogg, proceed to Hillside Exit
- 3) Turn Right on Hillside, proceed North and turn Right at ER drive

**Veterans Affairs
550 E. Kellogg Ave
Wichita, Ks.**

Rock Road Route

- 1) North to Kellogg
- 2) Turn Left on Kellogg, proceed West to Edgemoor

- 3) Turn Right on Edgemoor, proceed North to 1st drive and turn Left
- 4) Proceed to ER

K-15 Route

- 1) North to I-135
- 2) I-135 North to Kellogg exit
- 3) Turn Right on Kellogg, proceed East to Edgemoor
- 4) Turn Left on Edgemoor, proceed North to 1st drive and turn Left
- 5) Proceed to ER

Galicha Heart Hospital
2610 N. Woodlawn
Wichita, KS

K-15 Route

- 1) North to I-135
- 2) I-135 North to K-96 exit
- 3) K-96 East to Woodlawn
- 4) Woodlawn South to ER entrance

Rock Road Route

- 1) North to 21st St
- 2) West to Woodlawn
- 3) North to ER entrance

Sumner County Regional Medical Center
1324 N. A St.
Wellington, KS

I-35 Route

- 1) 119th St to I-35
- 2) I-35 South to Wellington Exit
- 3) Turn Right on US 160, proceed West to A St.
- 4) Turn Right on A St. (round a-bout), proceed North and turn Right at ER drive

US 81 Route

- 1) 119th St to US 81
- 2) Turn Left on US 81, proceed South
- 3) US 81 turns into A St.
- 4) Turn Left at ER drive

William Newton Memorial
1300 E. 5th
Winfield, KS

K-15 Route

- 1) South on K-15 to US 77
- 2) Turn at US 77, proceed to Winfield
- 3) Turn Left on 5th St
- 4) Turn Left at ER drive

Other addresses that Mulvane EMS could or has transported to on occasion:

Kansas Medical Center

1124 W. 21st Rd

Andover,KS

Kansas Heart Hospital

3601 N. Webb Rd

Wichita, KS

Wesley West

13th and Tyler

Wichita, KS

Via Christi – St. Teresa

14800 W. St. Teresa

Wichita, KS

Via Christi - Good Shepherd Campus. (Psychiatric)

8901 E. Orme St

Wichita, KS