



First Responders

Ambulance Services are trying to reach all patients with life-threatening conditions within 8 minutes in at least 75% of cases. First Responders are useful to, and count towards meeting these targets especially in rural areas where it is very difficult to meet the targets using conventional ambulances. This is why ambulance services employ First Responders.

A First Responder can be a single Paramedic in a fast response vehicle or a designated member of the public who is able to reach the patient quickly and provide basic life support. First Responders provide assistance whilst waiting for a fully equipped ambulance to arrive. An ambulance is despatched in every incident in which a First Responder attends. The full time ambulance crew take over on the scene upon arrival.

A First Responder is trained in basic emergency life-saving skills. First Responder schemes do vary a little bit between ambulance services in terms of training, clinical remit and the hours / shift patterns that they work.

Typically, First Responders are used by ambulance services in rural areas where low demand does not normally justify the posting of a full-time ambulance crew. However they can also be used in urban areas to assist in the high demand placed on full-time crews.

First Responder schemes vary between the different ambulance services but the reasons for their use are predominantly the same: *First Responders are a useful resource in assisting with life threatening emergency calls.*

**Ambulance Service Association
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