

Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board - First Responder Program

This has been a goal for the FD for many years which was made possible in part by those in the community that show their support for the FD by paying their fire dues.

Your Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire department is pleased to announce that it has completed the training and obtained the equipment to become medical First Responders licensed by the BC Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board. Six Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department members (five full-time residents and one part-time residents) have completed the First Responder medical training and will now be dispatched automatically when you call 911 for an Ambulance or medical emergency.

The primary objective of the First Responder program is to improve the continuity of patient care provided throughout the Province for pre-hospital emergencies. By recognizing that fire department personnel are often available to assist patients prior to arrival of ambulance crew, basic medical training provides responders with knowledge and capability to deal with critical situations involving airway, breathing and/or circulation concerns until higher levels of help can take over. The team has also acquired additional training in the form of Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), O2 delivery and spinal management to address cardiac arrest and major trauma situations respectively.

There are now over 7,000 first responders registered in the Province. Being a provincial program, the training program developed by the Paramedic Academy helps ensure that care provided is consistent and appropriate for those in need.

For more information about the program and licensing obtained please see <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/ema/frprogram.html>