



Graham Fire & Rescue

FIRE ENGINES AT MEDICAL AID CALLS?

With only two personnel typically assigned to our medic units, the need for assistance during the initial delivery of patient care is common. The treatment we deliver in the field is highly sophisticated and generally requires 3-4 personnel to avoid delay of treatment and transport.

The paramedics have the ability to diagnose heart attacks with a heart machine, deliver cardiac defibrillation (electric shock), measure oxygen levels, start IV's, administer medication, place breathing tubes and assist breathing. These procedures, plus the gathering of medical history and vital signs, require time and additional personnel to set up and perform. The paramedic relies on engine company personnel to assist them with these tasks.

The engine may also be the first to arrive if responding from a closer station or when a medic unit is on another call. All engines are equipped with Basic Life Support equipment and personnel trained to the EMT level, who can check vital signs, administer oxygen, defibrillate the heart and assist the patient in taking certain medications. Upon arrival of the medic unit, much of the work is already completed and the patient is assured a rapid transport to the hospital.



EMT's are trained to use Automatic Defibs, which are now in service on all fire engines.