

Emergency Medical Services

EMERGENCY



by Margie Smith

Acting EMS Coordinator

An EMS System is a community-wide, coordinated means of responding to an accident or sudden illness. You should know about these three features of an EMS system: (1) Entry into the system, (2) Rescue and transportation, and (3) Hospital emergency facilities.

ENTRY INTO THE SYSTEM: Two kinds of action are needed to enter a victim into the EMS system:

Action 1: bystanders provide immediate emergency care, which greatly increases the survival chances of a victim of an accident or sudden illness. As many people as possible in the North Slope Region should be trained in First Aid and CPR.

Action 2: At the same time or as soon as possible, another bystander "activates the EMS

system." Telephone 911 or 0 or call the local EMS number 852-3999 (see inside front cover of phone directory).

When you call for help, tell:

1. Where the emergency situation is, with cross streets and house numbers, if possible.
2. Phone number you are calling from.
3. What happened — heart attack, auto accident, 3-wheeler, fall etc.
4. How many persons need help.
5. What is being done for the victims.

IMPORTANT NOTE: please hang up last. Let the person you called hang up first.

RESCUE AND TRANSPORTATION: Upon receiving the emergency call, trained professional/paraprofessional personnel are sent to the scene to provide more definitive care. These in-

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dividuals bring knowledge and the necessary tools to rescue, stabilize, and transport victims.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY FACILITIES: At the hospital, further stabilizing care is given and medical procedures are begun by physicians, nurses, and technicians. However, all of the sophisticated equipment and specialized training available at emergency facilities will be of value only if immediate care is given on the scene and the EMS system is activated.

