



Save 911 for real emergencies



Westchester EMS

Established in 2000 Westchester EMS (WEMS) is a not-for-profit 501 C(3) EMS ambulance agency. WEMS is a shared service provider for its principal member parent hospitals. The parent hospitals include Northwell Health Northern Westchester Hospital, Northwell Health Phelps Hospital, NYP Westchester and White Plains Hospital. WEMS serves as their primary patient transport service provider. The Board of Directors for WEMS are the President / CEOs of the hospitals and systems who provide ongoing oversight and governance of WEMS.

Westchester EMS receives no direct financial subsidy from the Hospitals as it operates two divisions - the emergency 911 Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedic Response Service and the hospital inter-facility transport service. The divisions share management and infrastructure maximizing the synergies and leveraging an economy of scale between the two services, e.g. training, staff development, and patient care continuity.

The 911 emergency ALS paramedic service is fully funded by the participating municipalities on a break-even basis. The funding formula includes: 3-year average call volume per town, population, square miles per town, and assessed property value per town.

WEMS and the surrounding communities established a shared service model creating a collaborative consortium to provide advanced life support (ALS) paramedic services to eight towns in Northern Westchester. The towns include Bedford, Lewisboro, Mt. Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge and Somers. WEMS Paramedics drive SUV's and ride alone and are sometimes referred to as "the fly-car medics". On February 2016, WEMS started providing ALS paramedic service to the town of Mt. Pleasant. Together the 911 paramedic service operates six (6) units to respond to 911 emergency calls. They carry many medications and are trained to perform invasive procedures such as IV fluid administration, endotracheal intubation (advanced airway management that places a tube to the lungs) and 12 lead electrocardiograms in the field. WEMS Paramedics are paid professionals who work closely with many volunteer EMS corps. These corps can be from a local fire department or a volunteer ambulance corps (VAC). The volunteer agencies operate the actual ambulance in the towns and are certified by the NYS department of health to provide basic life support (BLS) care in the pre-hospital setting. Together, the volunteers and the WEMS paramedics form what is commonly referred to as EMS – emergency medical services.



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Westchester County, particularly its northern region, is mostly served by dedicated volunteer EMS organizations, and Westchester EMS has been able to create a collaborative environment for fifteen volunteer agencies to work closely together. Some of the noteworthy initiatives are joint training for Ebola response, Covid-19, active shooter, and collaborative case reviews for quality and improvements.

WEMS and the dedicated volunteer agencies respond to over 11,000 emergency 911 medical calls a year. These calls can vary from motor vehicle crashes to someone having a heart attack or stroke. When the volunteers arrive, they stabilize the patient and begin basic care. Once the paramedics arrive, they work together and the paramedics perform advanced assessments and care as they begin transport in the ambulance to the appropriate hospital.