

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

BULLETIN NO. 15

AUGUST 2006 (Reissued)

Bulletin No. 15 is a reissue of Old Bulletin No. 54 issued July 1996.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA FIRE AND EMS DEPARTMENT
AND THE BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE RESCUE SQUAD**

In the spirit of cooperation and in an effort, to provide the best possible pre-hospital emergency medical care to the residents of the District of Columbia, this Memorandum of Understanding (Memorandum) is entered into by the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (DC F&EMSD) and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad (BCCRS). The parties agree to abide by the letter and the spirit of this Memorandum unless and until modified or amended by a written amendment signed by the DC F&EMSD and the BCCRS, or otherwise superseded by law.

In consideration of the mutual promises and covenants set forth herein, the sufficiency of which is acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Article I

If a District of Columbia resident calls BCCRS directly for emergency medical services, BCCRS will immediately notify the DC F&EMSD Communications Division via the direct line, giving all particulars, which include, but are not limited to:

1. type of injury or illness
2. level of consciousness
3. location
4. age
5. sex
6. ETA to the incident location
7. any other pertinent clinical information or specific requests

BCCRS will dispatch a Basic Life Support (BLS) unit to the incident. The BLS shall be capable of using the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Predicated upon the information received, and using the District of Columbia medical protocols previously established, the DC F&EMSD will make a determination as to the appropriate level of patient care and may dispatch additional equipment as required by the District of Columbia emergency medical protocols.

The intent of the parties is that calls or other requests for assistance received and being processed by BCCRS will not be duplicated with BLS units of the DC F&EMSD. The DC F&EMSD may supplement a BCCRS response to a BLS call by dispatching the nearest Fire Fighting Division (FFD) company. Nothing in this Memorandum shall be deemed to limit the ability of the DC F&EMSD to make an Advanced Life Support (ALS) response to situations determined to require ALS

Article II

In an emergency situation, other than fire related emergencies, occurring within the BCCRS service area, as defined below, to which a rescue squad would normally be dispatched and when a DC F&EMSD rescue squad is unavailable within the BCCRS service area, and further, it is determined by the DC F&EMSD Communications Division that BCCRS is geographically closer than a DC F&EMSD rescue squad, then BCCRS shall be requested to respond to the incident. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the DC F&EMSD reserves the right to dispatch any apparatus deemed appropriate by the DC F&EMSD to any incident in the District of Columbia

The BCCRS service area is defined as that area lying within the following boundaries:

5000 block of MacArthur Boulevard, NW., 2600 block of Foxhall Road, NW., 2300 block of 44th Street, N.W., 2800 block of New Mexico Avenue, N.W., 2900 block of Wisconsin Avenue, NW., 2900 block of 34th Street, NW., 3100 block of Connecticut Avenue, NW., and Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park northerly to the boundary line of the District of Columbia with Montgomery County, Maryland.

Article III

It is agreed that calls received directly by BCCRS for inter-hospital emergency transport or routine non-emergency transportation from a point of origin within the BCCRS service area shall be handled by BCCRS in accordance with its established policies, including notification to the DC F&EMSD via the direct line.

Article IV

It is further agreed that BCCRS shall continue its stand-by participation at social/civic activities in the District of Columbia. BCCRS shall notify the DC F&EMSD prior to providing such services

Article V

It is understood that in all matters of incident command, the ranking member of the DC F&EMSD on the scene shall be in full command and any command decisions rendered by said incident commander shall be complied with. Medical control will be retained by the first arriving Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel (ambulance or medic unit) unless subsequently

arriving personnel are capable of providing a higher level of care (i.e., ALS vs. BLS) or unless the first arriving personnel release care of the patient to subsequently arriving personnel

During the term of this Memorandum and in order to be most responsive to patient needs and desires, the parties agree that each will act so as to cooperate and aid in the rendering of care by the other party, where such care is administered in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

Article VI

The parties agree that each will conduct operations within the District of Columbia in accordance with the relevant laws of the District of Columbia.

Article VII

In order to ensure that the terms and intent of this Memorandum are efficiently administered and operated, the principals agree to meet as necessary to resolve any operational difficulties which may arise and to meet at the end of each year to review the success of operations under this Memorandum.



Otis J. Latin, Sr.
Fire Chief
District of Columbia Fire and
Emergency Medical Services
Department

Date: 1-17-96



Edward G. Sherburne
Chief
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad

Date: 1/17/96