

LEVELS OF CERTIFICATION

EQUIPMENT

TRAINING

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The Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue employs 60 prehospital practitioners, 5 certified as EMT (emergency medical technician), and 55 as EMT-P (paramedic). These two levels of certification are: the highest level of prehospital provider certifications, and are standard throughout the industry for advanced EMS systems with the responsibility to provide treatment to the clientele located here. Each of these represents a very distinct range of knowledge, skills, and abilities that they are authorized, and expected to provide.

It is important to recognize a key required component to the delivery of advanced skills and/or therapies within the scope of practice by the prehospital practitioners is the availability of a medical director. The Town of Palm Beach contracts the services of Dr. Kenneth A. Scheppke, M.D., P.A. a Florida licensed physician.

Equipment Carried and Utilized at Palm Beach Fire Rescue

Equally as important as the level of care an individual is capable and authorized to perform is the level of the technology a medical device will provide and it being readily available to be applied. The equipment is the tool in the toolbox that an EMT or Paramedic can use that can substantially make the difference in the outcome of a patient. By constant review of the latest peer-reviewed literature and evidence based medicine, we continue to direct purchases toward those devices that will improve our pre-hospital care. The following is a description of some of those devices, that when applied, significantly assist us in changing the outcome of the patient.

- Therapeutic Hypothermia for Cardiac Arrest survivors
- Transmission of 12 Lead ECGs directly to the Emergency Room to speed Cardiac Catheterization process during heart attacks
- Adoption of advanced Stroke Screening tool to more accurately identify stroke patients and to target those most likely to benefit from fibrinolytic therapy.
- Minimally interrupted CPR, mechanical compression devices (AutoPulse), CPR compression sensor technology to monitor performance and provide feedback.
- Advanced ventilators that allow for partial gas oxygenation - in response to latest research showing the negative effects of too much oxygen.
- Newly adopted pain medications to help provide for patient pain control.
- Newly adopted anti-emetic medication to relieve nausea and vomiting in the sick patient.
- King Vision advanced portable video laryngoscopes
- External monitor to screen a patient for carbon monoxide exposure.
- Computer aided dispatch (Priority Dispatch).

Training

Palm Beach Fire Rescue utilizes a wide variety of training methods to ensure the prehospital practitioners are fluid in their knowledge and their respective scope of practice. We understand that delivery of good healthcare is a continual learning situation and requires ongoing educational

experience to supply the community with the highest quality emergency care. We achieve this by using a combination of hands-on skills training and online education.

Palm Beach Fire-Rescue EMT's and Paramedics are also training with Good Samaritan hospital in the Cardiac Cath lab to improve both assessment and procedural skills. We are learning valuable skills in the cath lab that may be applied in the prehospital setting. We are establishing relationships that have resulted in Palm Beach residents and visitors receiving quicker, more efficient, priority care. We have recently established an agreement with Good Samaritan Hospital with their Anesthesia group to perform Intubation training in the operating room.

Palm Beach Fire Rescue conducts regular training of all EMT's and Paramedics in an advanced simulation laboratory run by FAU's medical program.

We are very busy ensuring that the residents and visitors of the Town of Palm Beach can live, work, and enjoy their life feeling confident that in the event they need our rescue services, that they will be served by the most capable, knowledgeable, and technologically advanced medical professionals possible. We continue to research ways to improve on our customer service delivery to ensure the level of care we provide is of the highest standard. It is not enough to treat you; we strive to take care of your every need.