

General

Medical First Response (MFR) refers to the provision of EMS services by agencies operating non-patient-transporting units to provide medical care at an incident scene, either before the arrival of a transporting ambulance, or by providing assistance to an ambulance-based EMS crew.

Agencies which may provide MFR include (but are not limited to):

- Fire departments operating as part of an integrated fire-paramedic service
- Independently-operating fire departments
- Regionally/municipally employed and operated MFR services
- Community-based volunteer MFR services

Operational Requirements for MFR Agencies

MFR is a component of an EMS system. In order to provide MFR, an agency must meet the following operational requirements:

- MFR agencies must have a written agreement with the regional health authority (RHA) within which the agency operates. A copy of the agreement must be forwarded to the Emergency Services Branch.
- All staff providing MFR must hold a current Manitoba EMS provider license. The minimal license level for providing MFR is Technician (formerly EMR).
- MFR agencies must operate under medical direction. Furthermore, each MFR agency will be subject to the same quality assurance processes and practices as a patient-transporting ambulance service.
- MFR agencies will respond to medical incidents only when dispatched by a licensed dispatch centre.

Role of MFR Agencies

The roles and responsibilities of MFR agencies are as follows:

- To provide primary EMS response, assessment and treatment to urgent situations where MFR may be able to arrive prior to an ambulance. MFR will be primarily dispatched to high-priority calls (Priority 1, 2 or 3) as defined by the dispatch centre in accordance with Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) protocols.
- MFR may be dispatched to selected lower-priority calls in accordance with dispatch centre protocols.
- To provide ambulance-based EMS crews with assistance in the performance of medical procedures (e.g. CPR).
- To provide ambulance-based EMS crews with assistance with ancillary tasks (e.g. lifting patients).
- Ambulance-based EMS crews may encounter situations in which they believe that MFR may be required for assistance. In these circumstances ambulance crews may request MFR dispatch through the dispatch centre.
- MFR may, in selected circumstances, be dispatched to an incident without an ambulance also being dispatched. This decision is solely made by the dispatch center as per established protocols.

GENERAL: Medical First Response

Scope of Practice

As EMS providers, scope of practice will be defined as follows:

- MFR personnel scope of practice is that defined within the Manitoba Emergency Treatment Guidelines.
- MFR personnel may receive transfer of function certification from the medical director of their respective service/region in accordance with each individual's licensing level, as described in Guideline G2: Scope and Function.
- MFR personnel must operate within their scope of practice, as determined by their license level and transfer of functions authorized by the medical director of their respective service/region.