



Student Health Services
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IS IT AN EMERGENCY?

A medical emergency is a sudden illness or injury that requires immediate medical attention. This happens when a person's health problem may cause him or her to die, to lose a limb like a finger, arm, leg or have a lifelong medical problem following the emergency.

WHEN TO CALL 9-1-1

If you were injured in a car accident or experienced a fall from a great height you would not hesitate to call the ambulance or go to the emergency room. But there are often times when you are not sure if your situation requires a trip to the emergency room. **It is OK to err on the side of caution!** Here are some questions you can ask yourself to help with your decision to call 911.

- ☐ Does the person's condition appear to be life-threatening?
- ☐ Could the person's condition worsen and become life-threatening if I delay calling 9-1-1?
- ☐ Is this a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation for the victim?
- ☐ Is this a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation for me?
- ☐ Does the student need the skills or equipment employed by paramedics or EMT's?

WHAT TO DO IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

- ☐ Call 9-1-1
- ☐ Give the name, address, phone number and location of the person in need
- ☐ Give your name and phone number
- ☐ Approximate age of the victim
- ☐ Sex of the victim
- ☐ Any known medical conditions
- ☐ If possible, give the status of the victim
 - ☐ Is the victim conscious?
 - ☐ Is the victim breathing?
 - ☐ Is the victim bleeding?
- ☐ Do not move the victim
- ☐ Do not attempt to give medical care unless you are trained to do so. Only provide first aid if you are qualified to perform it.
- ☐ Stay with the victim to reassure him/her

- ☐ Ensure your own safety first. **DO NOT** go in to a hazardous situation to save someone else. Call 9-1-1!

WHAT TO SAY IF YOU CALL 9-1-1

- ☐ Speak calmly and clearly.
- ☐ Give the name, address, phone number and location of the person in need, and describe the nature of the problem.
- ☐ Give the dispatcher your personal number.
- ☐ Do not hang up until the dispatcher tells you to. The dispatcher may need more information.

EXAMPLES OF AN EMERGENCY

- ☐ Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
- ☐ Chest or upper abdominal pain or pressure lasting two minutes or more
- ☐ Fainting, sudden dizziness, weakness
- ☐ Loss of vision
- ☐ Confusion or changes in mental status, unusual behavior, difficulty waking
- ☐ Any sudden or severe pain
- ☐ Uncontrolled bleeding
- ☐ Severe or persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- ☐ Coughing or vomiting blood
- ☐ Suicidal or homicidal feelings
- ☐ Sexual assault
- ☐ Seizures or convulsions
- ☐ Sudden asthma attack that does not stop
- ☐ Sudden numbness or paralysis of an extremity
- ☐ Sudden headache, especially with neck pain or change in consciousness
- ☐ Uncontrolled fever
- ☐ Ingestion of alcohol, drugs, or poisonous substances