

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

If you discover an injured or ill person:

- Survey the scene before approaching a person experiencing a medical emergency.
- Make sure you can safely approach and assist the person.
- Quickly gather as much information as possible about the emergency such as name(s) of injured, the type(s) of injuries/symptoms, exact location, and a telephone number.
- Dial 911 and provide the emergency information.
- Return to the injured person and make him/her as comfortable as possible.

When administering first aid, it is important to only administer aid within your level of training. 911 dispatchers will provide direction to assist with patient care. Do not try to perform any skills above your level of training. If failure to render basic assistance would result in further injury or death, use common sense and work within your abilities. You could be held liable if you further injure the patient or if you initiate help but are unable to finish.

Caution—Avoid direct contact with blood or other bodily fluids! Bodily fluids or other potentially infectious materials should be treated as infectious and handled in accordance with universal precautions. If contact is necessary, use latex gloves, barrier masks or other protective equipment.

In a major disaster or emergency, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) may not be immediately available. In such circumstances, basic first aid may prevent further injury or death. Training on how to properly administer this aid is available from a variety of sources.

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Individuals interested in training for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED), or first aid may contact Prince George's County Office of Emergency Management at 301-324-4400 or OEMStaff@co.pg.md.us. The American Red Cross provides both training in CPR and basic first aid on a regular basis at reasonable prices. The American Red Cross National Capital Region can be reached by telephone at 703-584-8400 or www.redcross.org/local/dc/Washington

POISON CONTROL CENTER 1-800-222-1222

24-hour guidance for handling poison emergencies is available through the National Capital Poison Center. Poisonings are best prevented by storing medicines and household products in their original containers and locking those items where children cannot see or reach them. Store household products in a separate area away from food and medicines. If you believe that someone has been poisoned, call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 or 911 immediately.