

CITY OF BELLINGHAM

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Community Paramedic

UNION:106

CLASSIFICATION: Firefighter

SG:29

CS:Y

FLSA:Y

DEPARTMENT: Fire

EEO/SOCCODE:PS/29-2043

ASSIGNED

JOB SUMMARY:

This is an assigned position. Provides non-emergent patient care and care coordination services to reduce reliance on emergency services for non-emergent purposes. Supports the Community Paramedic Program through direct patient interaction, resource coordination, data documentation and collaboration with healthcare and social service partners.

The Community Paramedic (CPM) is required to apply technical paramedic skills and acquire and apply knowledge of medical and social support structures for patient care coordination and management. Performs paramedic duties through assignment to an emergency vehicle equipped with Advanced Life Support (ALS) equipment; may transport patients to destinations other than the Emergency Department; and, provides medical exams and treatment for patients in both emergent and non-emergent situations. This position is required to maintain proficiency with firefighting skills. The person in this position may also assist with or be assigned to other assignments within the firefighter classification. Works closely with Fire Captains and on-duty EMS Captains.

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS:

Reports to the Community Paramedic Captain. The CPM is responsible for patient care under the authority of the Department Supervising Physician and Whatcom County Medical Program Director in accordance with established medical protocols and operating guidelines. Consults with and receives direction from the Supervising Physician or their delegate(s) for authority to act in unusual situations. Operates within Paramedic scope of practice and local standard of care as modified by agreements and understanding of local medical and social welfare providers. Exercises considerable independent judgment in the execution of this assignment.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE JOB:

1. Provides community paramedicine services primarily in a non-emergent capacity to patients referred by emergency operations personnel or other medical or social service providers.
2. Interviews patients using developed assessment tools to evaluate which community and medical resources may be available to stabilize the patient's care situation and facilitate more appropriate use of emergency care resources. Refers patients to identified resources as appropriate and tracks patient progress, maintaining follow-up contact as needed.
3. Transports patients in staff vehicle to medical appointments or other destinations as appropriate and available. May transport patients in an ambulance with the assistance of at least one other EMS provider when necessary.

4. Develops working relationships with community partners, facilitates integration and collaboration between EMS and other health care and social service providers, and assists with the development and implementation of contracts with community and medical resources to assist with all aspects of patient care.
5. Documents patient encounters, referrals and outcomes in accordance with program standards and regulatory guidelines. Assists in data collection and reporting activities to support program evaluation, quality improvement and operational planning.
6. Obtains information from and provides explanation/counseling to patients, relatives and others involved with the patient's care.
7. Utilizes a wide variety of mobile medical equipment.
8. Maintains the confidentiality of patient information as required by law. Completes medical incident reports, records patient information, completes incident and billing forms and forwards files as required by established protocols or practice.
9. Inspects, tests, and maintains emergency aid equipment as needed through cleaning and/or sanitizing, periodic maintenance checks, repair or referral for repair or replacement; maintains emergency vehicle and equipment in orderly and sanitary condition.
10. Replenishes medications and supplies.
11. Participates in continuing education and training as required by the department and law to maintain skills and certification.
12. Performs all duties within the Firefighter Classification and the Firefighter/Paramedic job description as needed.

ADDITIONAL WORK PERFORMED:

1. Responds to emergency ALS calls when other ALS units are unavailable or responding to working fire incidents to support fire suppression crews.
2. Performs other related duties within the scope of the classification.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

This position may include stressful situations involving trauma, illness, psychopathology and other challenging patient interactions. Work is typically performed in a 40-hour work week but may involve shift work and off-duty recall for major emergencies, including weekends and holidays as required in an emergency services organization. Work is performed in a variety of settings, including offices, fire stations, emergency scenes, and emergency response vehicles.

The emergency environment may include unusual modes of communication, extreme noise, discomfort and hazard. The emergency environment may require the management/performance of hazardous tasks under conditions that require strenuous exertion with limited visibility, exposure to hazardous or toxic chemicals and gases, extremes in temperature, cramped surroundings, exposed heights, or activities in and around water. It may also involve working with citizens experiencing a wide range of emotions (rage, grief, confusion, etc.) as a result of an emergency. May be exposed to infectious diseases which require the use of protective equipment, and the elements.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS (Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities):

In addition to the performance requirements for the Firefighter classification, Paramedic requires:

- Ability to effectively deal with trauma and serious illness in an emergency situation;
- Working knowledge of Departmental medical protocols, applying these to medical emergencies and other medical response situations;
- Ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing,
- Ability to effectively take charge of patient, civilian and less qualified personnel during an emergency situation;
- Ability to drive ambulance and staff vehicles under emergency conditions and be familiar with county roads and maps;
- Ability to maintain consistent and punctual attendance.
- Ability and willingness to demonstrate the Public Service Competencies of Service Orientation, Results Orientation, and Teamwork and Cooperation.
- Must maintain confidentiality in dealing with patient information and providing care.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- All Firefighter requirements.
- Three years of emergency paramedic field experience preferred.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- All Firefighter Necessary Special Requirements.
- Certified as a paramedic in the State of Washington.
- Departmental certification as approved by the Fire Chief and the Department's Medical Program Director.

PREPARED BY: B. Hewett
E. Weinberg
3/26

REVIEWED BY: _____
Bill Hewett, Fire Chief