

EMS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q. Who do I call about a bill?

A. Medical billing 1-800-533-3915

Q. Why do I have a bill if I pay taxes?

A. EMS funding by the county is not adequate enough to support the service. A user fee is necessary to offset the loss. Most of the county monies are spent on personnel and durable (reusable) items such as the ambulance itself, heart monitors, and ventilators. Expendable items are those that are used on patients and are not re-usable. Some of the medications are very expensive and without a way of recouping these expenses the EMS service would not be able to offer the best healthcare to the citizens of Chester County.

Q. I am thinking about becoming an EMT or a paramedic. What do I have to do?

A. EMT school is 140 hours and is usually 35 classes in 4 hour blocks. EMT school will cost you \$800 for the school and books. York Technical College is the closest site for instruction; however, plans have been made to be able to hold classes in Chester. Paramedic school is over 1000 hours and will cost you \$4000 to attend. You must successfully complete EMT school before proceeding to Paramedic school.

Q. What is the difference between an EMT and a Paramedic?

A. an EMT is trained to perform CPR and first aid skills such as splinting and bandaging. EMT can maintain airway via mechanical devices and assist patients with certain medications that have been prescribed to them by a physician. An EMT-I (intermediate) performs the skills of the EMT with the addition of IV fluid therapy. A paramedic performs all the duties of the EMT and EMT-I with the addition of all advanced life support procedures. The EMT-Paramedic performs the same life saving techniques previously only available in the hospital.

Q. What is the difference between Chester County EMS, Chester Rescue Squad and Great Falls Rescue Squad?

A. The two rescue squads are completely volunteer services. Chester County EMS is a paid service. The two rescue squads do provide emergency medical care; however, they are not available 24 hours a day, seven days a week like Chester County EMS. The two rescue squads provide extrication services for their respective areas as well as some of the volunteer fire departments.