

# Pendleton Emergency Ambulance

23 good questions...23 good answers

Exploring the most-often-asked questions, the myths  
and the realities of volunteer ambulance service

Question	Answer
Can only a special type of person be on the ambulance?	We have members from all walks of life. They are special because they care.
Is there a lot of blood? I can't stand the sight of it.	Most runs do not include severe trauma. You learn quickly to focus on helping those people who need it rather than the circumstances.
Does it take a lot of time? I don't have much.	Many members respond from their home while on duty. This allows them to be with their families. The time of your shift can be arranged for your own situation.
Aren't there usually enough people on the ambulance?	Presently, we have a shortage....
Isn't being on an ambulance a man's job?	Approximately half of our crew members are women.
Doesn't it take an unusually strong person to do all the lifting?	When working as a team with the training you'll receive, lifting stresses are minimized. Crew are chosen carefully and supported in difficult situations.
Am I too old for the ambulance?	We welcome senior citizens for their maturity, qualified high school students for their energy and everyone in between.

Would I be in danger?	Personal safety and crew safety are Priority #1. Patient care is critical, but maintaining a non-threatening situation is crucial.
Would I be in danger of contracting AIDS or ...	You will receive special training and have protective equipment to limit the risk of all infectious diseases.
How often would I be on an ambulance run?	You may not have an ambulance call during a week or more of your service time or you might have several in one shift.
Will I know anyone on the service?	This service is composed of a great cross-section of our community. It is very likely you'll know someone here, and your crew association will lead to friendships you can rely on.
What if I'm not sure I'd like being on the ambulance?	There is an Observer Program for those who'd like to ride with the ambulance on a trial basis.
Is there any real attraction or satisfaction in being on the service?	Your involvement will significantly benefit you and many others in our community. Being part of the service brings a strong sense of pride and purpose.
What if I don't want to be an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician)?	We have driver positions for qualified personnel and positions for non-EMT members.
What if I don't have the money to go to EMT classes?	Financial assistance is available if you desire EMT certification but cannot afford it. The service pays half of class costs when you pass the state EMT test and participate with the service.
Isn't the service tax-supported, so won't it always be there when I need it?	This ambulance service is a non-profit corporation run by volunteers. Its longevity depends on the number of active members.

What if I can't be on the ambulance during normal shift times (6AM – 6PM and 6PM – 6AM)?	Your shift times can be altered to fit your availability.
What if I have a vacation coming up during a shift during which I'm scheduled?	Just like other service positions, your shift must be covered by you or another member by your arrangement. Reasonable shift swapping is acceptable.
Can I come and go while I'm on duty?	If you are within a two-minute response time to the station, you need not always be on site, but you do need to be always alert and available.
I live outside of the town limits, does this eliminate me from serving?	Full facilities exist at the Fire Station for your use during shift times, if needed.
Can I talk about situations I see?	To maintain high professionalism, you cannot discuss what you see, hear or do while on duty with outsiders. You will, however, have a fine support group within the service.
Would I have to talk on the ambulance radio?	You will receive helpful training in several areas, including radio communications. Developing practical skills is of high priority.



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