

Bridger-Teton National Forest Emergency Medical Services Program



Frequently Asked Questions

July 8, 2014

There's a BTNF EMS Program?

Yes, as of July 2011. You can get more information from the EMS Coordinator Chris Edwards:

Chris Edwards, cmedwards@fs.fed.us, 307.739.5557

What are the highlights of the program?

The main point of the program is to support BTNF emergency medical providers. This happens by having medical oversight provided by two co-medical directors.

The medical directors authorize BTNF EMS providers to provide patient care. Medical oversight also covers the other components of the BTNF EMS system by facilitating training, and insulating providers from litigation as long as the providers are credentialed, they follow established protocols, and they document incidents.

Being an EMT or WFR isn't in my position description.

Am I even allowed to help someone?

Yes! BTNF EMS providers should render care within their defined scope of practice to fellow employees, cooperators, or members of the public who require medical treatment or assistance.

Medical response on National Forest System lands is the responsibility of the local EMS system. However, BTNF employees should act within their capabilities to help injured people until the local EMS system can respond.

Will the EMS Program pay for training or equipment?

Wouldn't that be awesome? Unfortunately, there is no funding tied to the EMS program so training and equipment are still covered by individual programs.

We do have better access to training put on by Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole Fire/EMS. Contact the Forest EMS Coordinators for more information.

I supervise an EMT or a WFR. What do I need to do?

Let the Forest EMS Coordinator know! Who is that?

Chris Edwards, cmedwards@fs.fed.us, 307.739.5557

I'm a _____ . How do I fit in?

EMT:

The medical directors provide oversight and the EMS Program can facilitate completing continuing education requirements and patient contact hours. EMTs will be credentialed through the National Park Service's 'White Card' system, will follow NPS Emergency Medical Services protocols and will document incidents.

At this time, BTNF EMTs are **not** authorized to practice under the protocols above the EMT-Basic level, regardless of their level of training.

EMTs can affiliate with Bridger-Teton National Forest on NREMT.org to track their CEU hours and get recertified.

OEC:

The medical directors also provide oversight for OECs and allow them to practice at the first responder level as long as they have a current OEC card.

OEC providers will *not* be credentialed through the NPS 'White Card' system but will follow NPS First Responder protocols and will document incidents.

WFR:

WFRs will be credentialed through the National Park Service's 'White Card' system, will follow NPS First Responder protocols and will document incidents.

Wilderness first aid and first aid:

Although first aid and especially wilderness first aid are critical skills to have, the level of care isn't advanced enough to require medical oversight, credentialing, or protocols.

In the rare event that someone with only first aid or wilderness first aid training found themselves needing to assist a seriously injured person, the medical directors are available to help.

Do I need to be a Wyoming State EMT?

No. As long as you are a current, state or National Registry certified EMT, you can practice under the medical directors' oversight.

How do I get a White Card?

Two easy steps:

1. Get in touch with Chris Edwards
2. Complete the application and email to the NPS

Where do the protocols from? Do I have to follow them?

The protocols come from the National Park Service. Once you receive your White Card, or the Forest EMS Coordinator has a copy of your certificates and CPR cards, you will be issued a protocol packet.

You are expected to follow these protocols: the medical directorship covers you as long as you do. You are not expected to carry the protocol packet with you at all times, although you should have it accessible.

Can I get help with Continuing Education Units?

BTNF EMS providers are welcome to attend the trainings offered by Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole Fire/EMS. The Forest is working on setting up a similar arrangement with the Lincoln and Sublette county EMS departments.

EMTs can use the National Registry's recertification form to document their hours. This form is available online at https://www.nremt.org/nremt/EMTServices/emt_re_reg_form.asp.

What happens if I go off-Forest on a fire assignment?

As long as you are going out as a BTNF employee, you will operate under the medical directors' oversight.

Have more questions?

Call or email Chris Edwards:

Chris Edwards, cm Edwards@fs.fed.us, 307.739.5557