

FORWARD

The following Spokane County EMS Protocol Manual describes the methods in which the Spokane Fire Department EMS System will continue providing the highest quality clinical care available. Our cross-trained Fire/EMT/Paramedics are a critical part of the overall quality improvement efforts in Spokane County, and we have incorporated the collective evidence-based guidelines to produce this document. While it is impossible to address every feasible variation of disease or injury, these Protocols provide a sound foundation for treating the vast majority of patient we encounter. Certainly, our education, experience and clinical judgment will assist us as we provide the highest quality care available. Additionally, on-line medical control is available for those patient presentations that do not fall within the scope of this document.

In sum, these protocols exemplify the proven practices that are the foundation of our pre-hospital care program. The protocols coupled with your education, skills and experience will allow us to provide pre-hospital care that is clinically superior and life-saving.

Finally, the manner in which we carry ourselves is often as important as the care we provide. For many of the less critical situations, the human interaction has more of a healing effect than any medication or procedure.

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle”– Plato

Our system operates in a very unique practice of medicine where firefighters work in partnership with other EMS and medical professionals without sacrificing patient care—and I am very proud of that fact. We are an organization committed to learning and improving—not one for practicing blame or settling for average. As a provider in the system, you are ultimately the “Spokane Fire Department” in the patient’s perspective and with that comes incredible responsibility and opportunity.

Thank you for continuing to provide clinically extraordinary and compassionate care while protecting the City of Spokane’s citizens and visitors.



Brian Schaeffer, EMT-P
Fire Chief