



April 7, 2020

The Rutherford Volunteer Ambulance Corp would like to remind you that calls to 911 and transportation by ambulance must be reserved for only the most dire and urgent situations right now.

It may be frightening to develop a cough or fever, at any time, but especially during this crisis. It is understandable to want to call for an ambulance as a first instinct. We, the volunteers, take great pride in serving our community. However, if you feel the need to go to the hospital, and are able to drive yourself or have a caregiver drive you, please do so. Rutherford ambulances are a valuable resource that currently must be saved for those who are in need of immediate help.

When should you call for an ambulance?

When the ill person is experiencing any shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; chest pain; altered mental status; inability to rouse; broken bones; severe bleeding; diabetic emergency; stroke-like symptoms. When in doubt, absolutely call an ambulance. We will be there for you.

If there's any question as to the severity of symptoms, we strongly encourage residents to call a doctor, who will then help determine whether or not the ill person should stay home or go to the hospital. In most cases, they will encourage the ill person to stay at home and self-monitor symptoms. Both ambulatory and hospital resources are stretched to the limit right now. Due to the current crisis, hospitals are currently a place to avoid unless absolutely necessary. This is both to lessen the burden on healthcare workers and to lessen the chances of spreading the virus.

The Rutherford Volunteer Ambulance Corp has been serving the community for 70 years. We take great pride in being there for our residents and we ask for your cooperation during these extraordinary and unprecedented times.