



THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

September 2005

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DID YOU KNOW that the Medical First Responder Program is a solution to St. John Ambulance's Volunteer Patient Care Training and Delivery Challenges?

In 1992 a patient care training system known as the Brigade Training System (BTS) was developed in an effort to integrate and standardize training for St. John Ambulance (SJA) volunteers. The system was based on SJA first aid/CPR standards and elements of family health care and was designed to be delivered in three progressive levels. Following the completion of each level, a comprehensive theoretical and practical assessment was administered known as the Brigade Assessment Process (BAP).

The intent was to have all SJA patient care providers trained and certified to at least the 40-hour BTS Level 1 standard. This goal was not reached early on and resulted in only 35% of eligible members nationally qualifying in BTS annually. Reasons associated with this failure of BTS include: lack of instructional material aimed at BTS; lack of applicability and recognition outside SJA; inconsistent instructor and evaluator standards and development; lack of strict policy compliance related to the standards of care; and limited opportunity to complete more advanced training.

In 2002 SJA released a complete version of its Advanced First Aid program entitled "Medical First Responder (MFR)". This new program is modular in nature and can be delivered in as little as 24-hours or as much as 80-hours depending on the number of electives taught. It was written to comply with Paramedic Association of Canada's Emergency Medical Responder guidelines.

This program is currently being used by Canadian Coast Guard Rescue Specialists, Reserve Medical Corps attached to DND, Industry, Volunteer Fire Departments, and other first responders

To address the issues associated with BTS, SJA has shifted its core Community Services patient care training from BTS to the SJA Medical First Responder Program. The MFR 40-hour course known as Advanced Medical First Responder 1 (AMFR1), is being implemented nation-wide and will replace the current BTS and provide consistent training using newly-revised, nationally developed and maintained curriculum and training resources.

The advantages to AMFR1:

- Similar time requirement as BTS.
- Up-to-date Instructor material (PowerPoint slides, comprehensive Community Services-focused I-Guide) available in both languages

DID YOU KNOW?

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE



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- Up-to-date Student material available in both languages
- The program is recognized by employers / agencies outside of SJA.
- Challenge process that recognizes the knowledge and experience of professional health care providers
- Re-certification process that recognizes the strengths of the current Medical First Responder
- A higher standard of care may assist with mitigating risk
- Has marketing appeal for our current and potential clients, volunteers, and funding sources (including government)
- The modular format offers greater opportunities for increased training for our medical first responders, including modules to support ongoing continuing medical education
- Offers a competitive advantage over other patient care-oriented service organizations
- Will raise the profile of SJA with other agencies and emergency services
- Provides for the efficient use of training resources
- Provides our clients with a higher level of care and improved outcomes.

Throughout the remainder of 2005 and into 2006, St. John Ambulance Canada will focus on the development of instructors and the training of Medical First Responders (formerly known as patient care providers) within Community Services. This focus will include the continued development of strategies and resources to support such training and service delivery, including a new Medical First Responses Services Handbook to assist Community Services Units with event coverage.

St. John Ambulance is energized and looking forward to the continued roll out of this training and we look forward to your excitement and commitment to this new initiative as it is delivered across the country. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact your provincial/territorial Director of Community Services or Director of Training.