

EM Resident Observational EMS Ride Along Guidelines

Welcome to the Anne Arundel County Fire Department (AACoFD)! I firmly believe that a good understanding of EMS is critical to being a well-rounded EM physician. I have a vested interest in giving each of you the best EMS experience possible. Fortunately, I have the privilege of working alongside some amazing pre-hospital clinicians every day. I know that my providers are eager to teach you about the practice of prehospital medicine, but they are also eager to learn from you! I hope that during your ride-along experience you will have the opportunity to both teach and learn. I hope that you are able to develop appreciation and mutual respect for your pre-hospital colleagues. But most importantly, I hope you have fun! We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't like it!

Respectfully,



Jon Wendell, MD, FACEP, FAEMS
Medical Director, AACoFD
UMEM Class of 2010

Background

The Anne Arundel County Fire Department is an all hazards response agency, which provides fire, emergency medical, and technical rescue services to a population of approximately 568,346 citizens. The Department's 1186 members comprised of career and volunteer personnel, work cooperatively to meet the public safety needs of the community. The department has an annual operating budget of \$108,100,000 and responds to 85,000+ emergency responses annually. The department is composed of 31 fire stations and various support facilities which provide: training, administrative, and logistical functions.

Anne Arundel County, Maryland is located in the Baltimore / Washington corridor and contains over 500 miles of shoreline stretching from Calvert County, Maryland to the City of Baltimore. The County is unique in that it is composed of urban, suburban, and rural communities. Anne Arundel County is also home to a number of target hazards including: an international airport, military facilities, major interstates, hospitals, correctional institutions, numerous marinas, and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Opportunities Available

There are several experiences that are available to you through AACoFD, including riding with a medic unit, an EMS Supervisor, or the Medical Director. Additionally, you can spend time at our 911 dispatch center, in our Training Academy, or at local/state EMS meetings. We will do our best to arrange what we believe would be a good EMS experience. However, please let us know at least 2 weeks prior to your rotation date if you would like to do something in particular, and we will make every attempt possible to arrange.

Contact

The primary point of contact for scheduling is the EMS Ride Along Coordinator, which is currently PM Jason Moore. Please contact him at least 2 weeks prior to your ride along date. He is best reached by email (aafdridealongs@aacounty.org), but can also be reached by phone. Please copy Dr. Wendell to your email, so he can assist in any scheduling difficulties AND can work to enhance your EMS experience.

- **FF/PM Jason Moore**
AACoFD Training Academy
aafdridealong@aacounty.org
443-336-2854
- **Jon Wendell, MD**
Medical Director
wendell@aacounty.org
443-510-1330

Location

There are several common meeting locations. Your exact location and time will be sent to you prior to ride along date. All station locations can be found here: www.aacounty.org/locations-and-directions/?type=fire-stations

- AACoFD Headquarters
8501 Veterans Highway
Millersville, MD 21108
- AACoFD Station 31 (Brooklyn)
5100 Ritchie Highway
Brooklyn, MD 21225
- AACoFD Station 18 (Marley Fire Station)
7726 Baltimore & Annapolis Blvd.
Glen Burnie, MD 21060
- AACoFD Station 26 (South Glen Burnie)
7880 Crain Hwy S
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
- AACoFD Station 33 (Glen Burnie)
15 Central Avenue
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
- AACoFD Station 12 (Earleigh Heights)
161 Ritchie Highway
Severna Park, MD 21146

Arrival

Please arrive around 0730 hours. Upon your arrival, locate the station officer (Captain or Lieutenant) for the shift and introduce yourself. Inform them that you are an observational ride along guest on the medic unit and provide the time frame in which you are scheduled. Make sure you have ID with you (hospital ID is fine). You will also need to show the officer your ride along waiver form, but make sure you keep that with you at all times.

After meeting the officer, introduce yourself to the paramedic for the shift. Please be very proactive in this process. During the preventative maintenance checks, feel free to ask questions about our procedures, equipment, medications, etc...

Attire

Attire should consist of dark navy colored pants or khakis, a comfortable polo shirt, and a pair of black work style boots or tennis shoes. Depending on weather, you may need to bring a coat, rain jacket etc... It is recommended that you bring a spare change of clothes meeting the requirements above.

Food

You are welcome to pack your own lunch. If you want to buy in for lunch and dinner at the station, it is typically \$10-12 for both (\$5-6 per meal). Let the station personnel know first thing in the morning so that they can count you in or not. Do not assume that they counted you in for meals unless you have talked to them. Also, coffee is abundant...just bring a dollar or two to throw into the coffee fund.

Emergency Contact

If for any reason you need to cancel or if you encounter any issues during your ride along in which you need to leave before your scheduled time, please notify the EMS Ride Along Coordinator at EMS Training immediately via email at aafdridealongs@aacounty.org. If there are any provider issues, let Dr. Wendell known immediately. You can also call Lt. Brian Christopher at EMS Training at 410-222-8335 if Dr. Wendell is unavailable.

Important Items

- ***SAFETY FIRST!*** I cannot stress this enough. During this experience, you may find yourself in some interesting locations, including inside of people's home or on the side of a busy highway. Pay attention to your surroundings, watch where you step, and always wear the personal protective equipment that you will be provided (safety vest, safety glasses, gloves, etc...). Do not be offended if someone asks you to move (particularly on an accident scene), it is for your safety!
- ***Ask questions!*** There are countless opportunities to learn from EMS providers, especially the ones who have been around a while. Ask questions and learn about different ways to provide patient care outside of the emergency department. EMS providers often want to teach residents as much as they want to ask questions and be educated. Some newer EMTs/Paramedics may be nervous or intimidated to have a physician on the ambulance. Spend time getting to know each other; developing mutual respect for each other's roles in medicine will be beneficial in your career...trust me!
- ***Be humble, courteous, and leave your ego at home!*** To EMS providers, residents are doctors and outsiders. These two qualities can create a substantial barrier during EMS shifts or ride-alongs. Accept that you know very little about how to be an EMT or paramedic (even if you were an EMT in a previous life). Even though you may have more years of formal medical training, your ability to recite Rosen's does not trump real-world experience. Just accept it.
- ***Understand the EMS protocols!*** Maryland operates under standardized protocols that are available online (<https://www.miemss.org/home/ems-providers/protocols>) and in hard copy on every transport unit (and in your emergency department).
- ***Have fun!***



