

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services

Student / Observer Policy

This policy outlines procedures for approval for persons wishing to ride with Catawba County Emergency Services as a Student or Observer.

- Students or observers must be 18 years old.
- Health Care Professionals (MDs, RNs, EMT, EMDs, etc...) affiliated with a Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System agency may ride with Emergency Services as part of an approved continuing education program.
- A person riding as part of a continuing education program must have his or her department's written approval to participate in this program.
- EMS Students may ride with Emergency Services as part of an approved field internship program. These students must be enrolled in an approved program at an accredited teaching institution that has a current contract with Catawba County EMS.
 - A person riding as part of a field internship program must have his or her teaching institution's written approval to participate in this program and must provide a certified Criminal History to EMS Administration when applying to ride. The criminal history must have been obtained and certified within 30 days of the request to ride.
- Others may be allowed to ride with Emergency Services on an as needed basis. The appropriate Division Manager or Emergency Services Director must approve "others" and there must be a legitimate reason for the person to ride. (i.e., Personnel Analyst, County Attorney, EMS Chaplain, etc...)
- A person must have a reason, acceptable to the appropriate Division Manager or Emergency Services Director, which relates to the betterment of Emergency Services.
- Anyone allowed to ride with Catawba County Emergency Services must understand and agree to the following:
 - Review all policies and procedures with a member of Emergency Services Administration and sign all requisite forms before riding.
 - Students may assist in treatment of patients and other operational activities under direct supervision of assigned Emergency Services staff.
 - Students/Observers shall follow the direction of their assigned Emergency Services staff at all times.
 - A patient has the right to object to any Student/Observer participating in or observing his/her treatment. Should this occur, it is possible that a Student/Observer will be left behind and will be responsible for finding his or her own transportation. For this reason, all Student/Observers are advised to carry their own cell phone. However, the cell phone must never be turned on while in the presence of a patient.
 - Students/Observers are prohibited from interfering with Emergency Services personnel at any time.

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- Weapons, controlled substances or alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Emergency Services premises or vehicles at any time. Anyone believed to be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances will not be allowed on Emergency Services property.
- Students must wear their school uniform. Observers should wear a white or light blue collared knit shirt and black or navy pants. Students/Observers must display proper identification at all times. Students/Observers must be prepared for inclement weather. Emergency Services will not be responsible for any damaged belongings or lost articles.
- Students/Observers may ride between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. unless Emergency Services Administration gives special approval otherwise.
- Riding with Emergency Services is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked at any time, with or without cause.
- Failure to agree to and comply with these rules will result in the Students/Observers' immediate termination from riding in an Emergency Services vehicle or being on Emergency Services property.