

FACTS



PARAMEDIC SERVICES - RAPID RESPONSE UNIT | JANUARY 2019

In recent years, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services has implemented multiple strategies to arrive at 911 calls faster and improve Paramedic Services coverage in rural and rapidly growing communities. One critical strategy is the deployment of Rapid Response Units (RRUs), with eight RRUs now strategically deployed across the County.

What is a Rapid Response Unit?

- RRUs are commonly used in this industry to help Paramedics arrive to a 911 call faster
- RRUs are specially equipped vehicles fully stocked with emergency medical equipment and medicine the same as an ambulance, with the exception of a stretcher
- A fully certified Paramedic, who can provide sophisticated levels of assessment and treatment while the transport-capable ambulance is on route, operates the RRU and responds to 911 calls in the community
- RRUs have had a positive impact in rural communities and rapidly growing areas

Purpose of a Rapid Response Unit?

- RRUs are dedicated to the community they serve. Unlike an ambulance, RRUs do not provide transport to a hospital. After providing assessment and treatment at a scene of a 911 call, the RRU Paramedic stays in the area available for other calls
- When a 911 call occurs, BOTH an RRU (when deployed in a community) and an ambulance respond to the call. All patients must be assessed by a Paramedic before transported to a hospital. The RRU Paramedic can arrive to the call faster and start treatment while the ambulance is on the way

RRUs help get Paramedics to your side faster, which helps get you to the hospital sooner!



What are the benefits of Rapid Response Units?

- Response times have decreased across the system through the deployment of RRUs, and as a result, Paramedics arrive on the scene faster – particularly in rural communities
- RRUs provide higher degrees of coverage to a targeted community, since it doesn't flow in and out of the community for transport to hospitals
- RRUs help get Paramedics to your side faster, which helps get you to the hospital sooner!
- An RRU Paramedic can assess a patient as non-emergent when arriving at a scene - freeing up ambulances to respond to other critical patients
- RRUs are cost effective, and improve area Paramedic Services coverage and availability

**FASTER
RESPONSE**

**DEDICATED
TO A COMMUNITY**

**EFFICIENT
SERVICE**