



Behind the Sirens is a monthly series of informational pearls aimed at improving knowledge of pre-hospital medicine. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is now a boarded subspecialty of emergency medicine, and, as such, includes many nuances unfamiliar to the majority of hospital-based practitioners. Targeted at ED physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, techs and anyone else curious about this field, **Behind the Sirens** will serve as a bridge to help better understand this critical component of the patient care continuum. The views shared by Firefighter Knox and his authors are exclusively his and theirs. They do not reflect those of any institution. The details are not meant as practice guidance.

Fiction

All EMS personnel function under the same protocols and medical direction

Facts

- Illinois is divided into eleven (11) EMS regions (see map)
- All four NorthShore Legacy Hospitals are within **Region 10**
- Each Region has Resource Hospitals with an EMS Medical Director and EMS Team
- There are five (5) resource hospitals in Region 10 (Condell, Highland Park, Lake Forest, St Francis, and Vista)
- Each Resource Hospital serves as the medical direction hub for several fire departments
- **HIGHLAND PARK EMS SYSTEM Fire Departments:** Deerfield, Highland Park, Glencoe, Gurnee, Northbrook
- EMS personnel function under the guidance and direction of their resource hospital and Region protocols
- Sometimes ambulances from other regions will deliver patients to our hospitals
- There may be patient care differences depending on the ambulance, fire department, and region of origin
- Example - Glenview FD functions under Region 9 (Lutheran medical direction), while Northbrook functions under Region 10 with (Highland Park medical direction)

Summary

- Depending on IL EMS region, resource hospital, and medical direction an ambulance crew might deliver different care to a patient. A crew might call a non-NorthShore ER for guidance yet bring the patient to a NorthShore ER (e.g., Skokie Fire Department calls St. Francis for on-line medical direction but brings their patient to Evanston ER). Be cognizant of these nuances when assessing field care and interactions

