



# Ambulance Paramedics & Emergency Dispatchers of BC

## Who we are and what we do!

In BC, over 4500 Paramedics and 270 Medical Dispatchers work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to keep our communities healthy and safe.



# Anytime. Anywhere. By land, sea or sky.



## We will be there.

**As leaders in emergency prehospital care, allies in healthcare and professionals in our communities, Paramedics and Medical Dispatchers are a quintessential resource for municipalities in BC.**

The field of Paramedicine has evolved from a traditional response of unscheduled emergencies to a robust and multi-disciplined practice encompassing public safety, emergency first response, scheduled and acute transport, and community-based health innovation.

As experts in emergency management Paramedics are uniquely qualified to assist in emergency prevention culminating in a dynamic and versatile skillset that transcends conventional public sectors. Engaged as a mutual stakeholder in both public safety and healthcare, Paramedics are able to provide relief to healthcare systems and infrastructures operating at or above capacity within BC communities as specialists in emergency response and preventative healthcare.



# As the world evolves and adapts.



**+500,000**

Responses per year

**+1,700**

Calls per day received into three  
dispatch centres across BC

As the world evolves and adapts to the universal consequences and reality of Covid-19, our leaders are left to manage an ongoing opioid epidemic amidst a global pandemic with the constant threat of seasonal natural disasters (such as wildfires and flooding).

A unique set of circumstances requires a unique response and BC Paramedics and Medical Dispatchers are always ready to respond.



# What can Paramedics do in YOUR community?

Paramedics in BC provide a variety of services to support community health and safety. Through a multitude of specialties and licence levels BC Paramedics are there for you ensuring province-wide service access to healthcare, even in hard to reach communities.



## Primary Care Paramedic PCP

**Training :** 1 Year

**Services:** Trained to work in unpredictable and dynamic environments while ensuring safe, proficient and efficient patient care and transportation. PCPs are able to perform a variety of skills and procedures ranging from symptom relief to critical lifesaving interventions.



## Advanced Care Paramedic ACP

**Training :** 3 Years

**Services:** Possess a technical skill-set of advanced procedures that enable them to effectively manage critically unstable patients and conditions. They are targeted to the most high acuity calls.



## Critical Care Paramedic CCP

**Training :** 5 Years

**Services:** These paramedics operate with the goal of instituting and maintaining tertiary-level emergency and ICU care for the patients with the greatest need while facilitating their transport by air, land, and sea to the appropriate medical facility.



170+

Ambulance Stations



4500+

Paramedics



270+

Medical Dispatchers



### Paramedic Specialists ACP-PS / CCP-PS

**Training :** 3 1/2 - 5 1/2 Years

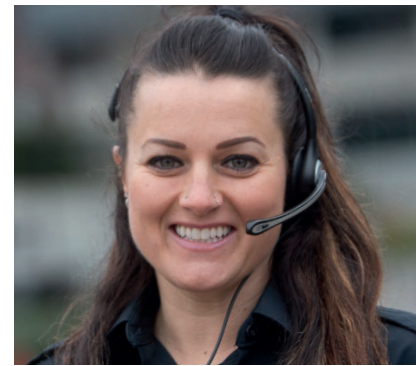
**Services:** Clinical support both on scene in Metro-Vancouver and to the entire Province through our dispatch centres. Paramedic Specialists receive extra training to manage complex situations such as hazardous events and are able to triage events and ensure optimal resource management and patient care.



### Community Paramedics PCP-CP / ACP-CP

**Training :** 1 1/2 - 3 1/2 Years

**Services:** At their respective license level provides community based care for elderly, indigenous, at risk or vulnerable populations. Community Paramedics function in a non-emergency setting and provide a variety of services ranging from home visits to blood pressure and diabetic clinics.



### Emergency Medical Dispatcher and Call-Taker

**Training :** 1 Year

**Services:** Call-Takers provide over the phone medical assistance until resources arrive at the patients side. Dispatchers provide vital information to paramedic crews and hospitals while managing resources in the region.





# Our resources are available by land, sea or sky.



## Ambulances

Annually ambulances in BC drive over 2,000,000 KM arriving to emergency 911 calls and transporting patients between health facilities.



## Paramedic Response Units

PRUs are smaller vehicle such as an SUV. These units are staffed with one equipped paramedic who can undertake full paramedic care when they arrive on scene. The PRU has all the same equipment on board, but no stretcher.



## Fixed-wing aircraft

A fleet of seven fixed-wing aircraft based in Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna, and Fort St. John transport patients from every corner of the Province. Patients in the North account for approximately 40 per cent of all air transports, and patients in the Interior account for approximately 25 per cent.



## Helicopters

A fleet of four helicopters based in Vancouver, Kamloops, and Prince Rupert arrive to emergency 911 responses. Approximately 35 pre-qualified air carriers throughout British Columbia can also provide charter aircraft as needed.



## Boats

Working alongside the coast guard and search rescue organisations, Paramedics join these first responders to stabilize patients while they are transported to the closest health care facility.



## How can you ensure YOUR community's needs are met?



**As municipal and community leaders, you have a critical role in the decisions being made about healthcare services and public safety within your community.**

***You know the needs of your community better than anyone else.***

Visit [www.apbc.ca](http://www.apbc.ca) and check out what resources are currently available in your community.

Our comprehensive resource list includes every Ambulance Station in British Columbia along with the current resources available in each of those communities.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss your community specific Ambulance Service and healthcare needs, challenges, gaps and paramedic services.

We ask that you write both the Health Minister and Health Critic to advocate for enhanced paramedic services and healthcare in your community.

Sincerely,

Troy Clifford  
Provincial President  
Ambulance Paramedics and Emergency  
Dispatchers of BC  
CUPE Local 873