

By MITCHEL D. SHAIR  
EMT/SERGEANT

MANY times when EMTs are called to a situation we will evaluate the patient and a decision needs to be made whether or not to transport. An unconscious person is an automatic transport under the rules of "Implied Consent," it's the same as with a minor without adult supervision. Similar for a person that has an altered mental status which can be from a medical issue, trauma to the head or under the influence of drugs or alcohol and cannot make decisions as they would when coherent.

There are certainly instances when a person with a known medical issue that they are used to handling or a minor injury, that do not require an ambulance ride to the hospital. There are many cases when a person can wait to contact and then see their Primary Care Physician or it's an issue they are well capable of handling on their own.

There are also many times that a person needs or we believe may need immediate attention by a Medical Doctor. As EMTs we perform a basic patient assessment, we are trained to handle serious illness and injury that also may be life threatening then transport to a hospital. We are not trained or equipped to diagnose or rule out injuries or medical issues that should be treated by an MD. In the hospital there is a wide array of equipment and specialists that need to be consulted to make sure the patient is ok or more interventions are required.

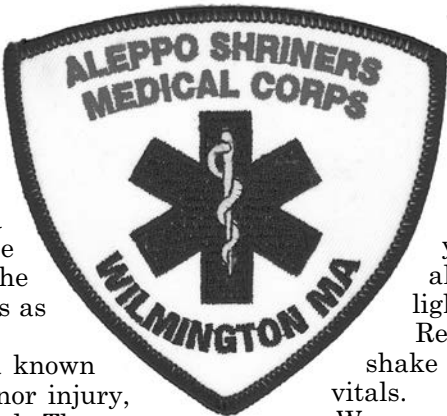
So the question is do you go by ambulance or have someone drive you in to the hospital? Often people fear the cost of an ambulance ride, but most insurances cover most or all of the cost, and the fees may be waived for hardship. By going to a hospital in an ambulance, you are monitored by well-equipped professionals that are in contact with medical control which is typically the receiving hospital and in most cases the head nurse or doctor in the emergency room. The ambulance has already called ahead to make sure the hospital is not on divert or other issue that may make the choice of another location more suitable. The ambulance crew knows the way to the hospital and once there, you usually go right into the emergency room without delay, once you have been categorized a high priority.

You may think that the EMTs will force you to go if it is a true emergency; this is not the case at all. We operate under strict rules; unless the patient is unconscious or meets the criteria for altered mental status, we cannot force someone to go. In fact EMT crews can face charges of kidnapping or battery, so they are always very careful that the patient has given consent to touch them and to transport.

People being taken by others to the hospital take certain risks. They may not know the way and get lost; it takes more time with no emergency equipment to go through red lights if needed. Courts frown on people driving like emergency vehicles since they are more likely to cause an accident and make a minor problem a major one with multiple injuries. The person being driven to the hospital can suddenly get worse, pass out or go into cardiac arrest. What was a controllable issue now becomes a panicked driver on the side of the road trying to summons emergency services by cell phone.

Worse yet is a person in complete denial that insists on waiting to see their own doctor during regular hours or drive themselves to the emergency room. The worst thing that can happen is you pass out at the wheel and your vehicle becomes an unguided missile into innocent people.

If you are not taken in by ambulance, you typically have to go through admissions and wait in a room unattended by medical staff until ready to be



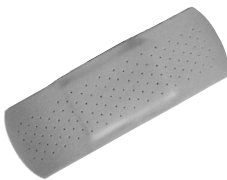
seen; this is completely handled by the ambulance crew. That is not to say that if you have insurance and you want to cut the line at the ER calling an ambulance will automatically do this. If your situation is actually minor compared to others already being treated you may still have to wait.

Hopefully you or someone you know will never need the services of an ambulance. If you do listen to what they say, think your decision through, don't be in denial and consider the consequences to yourself and those around you. Leave the driving to the professionals, that's what we get paid for.... Plus we like to drive fast with the lights and sirens!!

Remember we would rather get to know you with a fraternal handshake and brotherly conversation, than kneeling at your side taking vitals.

We are constantly expanding our capability to provide quality emergency care, so if you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a Noble, or any existing Noble's out there who would like to join us at the Medical Corps, as a First Responder, EMT, Nurse or Physician's Assistant to stand ready for Medical Emergencies at Shrine events and Parades, please contact us.

Captain **Edward J. Burg**  
Text/Cell: 978-501-5525  
Email: aleppomedicalcorp@gmail.com  
or  
Lieutenant **Mitchel D. Shair**  
Text/Cell: 617-686-0090  
Email: mitch2508@gmail.com



## Syd's Pull-Tab Story

MY name is **Sydney Shair**, I have been to Shriner's Auditorium many times for the circus and other shows along with seeing the Shriners on parade. After joining the RAT Club (Research & Animal Technology) at Norfolk County Agricultural High School, I realized that this club takes time to find out what they can do for people in need. My dad, **Mitch Shair** (Medical Corps), being a Shriner and a volunteer, has told me a lot about the "Pull-Tab" program and how they collect these little tabs that would otherwise be recycled with the can it's on. They are saved up until aluminum prices are high and then turned in for money. All of the money goes to the Aleppo Shriner's Children's Transportation Fund.

We already collect them at home, so I thought I could start a collection going from my school as well. With my mom's help, we decorated a few empty milk jugs with information about the can tab program and gave them to the school. After a month, **Ms. Garrett**, the teacher that runs the RAT Club, came back to me with three big bags of tabs that were given anonymously; and, although we didn't get the person's name, it is still great to think that someone went out of their way to collect and drop off all those tabs.



## What's Aleppo Public Relations Up To?!

Hey everyone, Aleppo's Public Relations Committee is looking for volunteers. We are working hard to get the word out and make sure everyone in Eastern Massachusetts knows who we are. To get this done, we could use your help.

Recently, we secured proclamations from several government officials, in which they endorsed Shriners International Awareness Day, an annual event taking place on June 6th.

Going forward, we hope to build on this foundation of good work to drive greater visibility for Aleppo. To get involved, come join us in the Cycle Room on the third Wednesday of the month. For any questions, feel free to contact PR Chairman **Doug Dodge** at either [santa-doug@gmail.com](mailto:santa-doug@gmail.com) or 781-248-2608.



Greenberg's

TRAIN AND TOY SHOW

MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup>  
10:00 AM 'TIL 4:00 PM

