

**“Why do ambulances and fire trucks seem to always respond together?”**

Most fire departments in Kootenai County run both fire and medical calls out of their stations. Typically, responding personnel are cross-trained; meaning they are both a firefighter and an emergency medical technician (EMT) or a paramedic.

One never knows what resources may be required at a call.

Typically, ambulances are staffed by two EMT's but additional assistance may be needed with lifting or for more serious calls such as heart attacks. An automobile collision with injuries may require specialized extrication equipment not carried on the ambulance. Or perhaps, a caller to 911 may not provide enough details of the true extent of the incident and we have found that it is always better to be overly prepared when assisting those we serve.