



## FACT SHEET 002

# AMBULANCE SERVICES AND FIRST AID POLICY

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Accidents can and do happen at Agricultural Shows. If they do, they have the potential to expose organisers to risk and liability if it can be shown that a competition was permitted to proceed in bad weather or if the first aid procedures in place were insufficient and therefore contributed to the severity or complications of an injury. From a public liability standpoint and to protect the Society and its members, the Organising Committee should have specific guidelines in place that can deal with situations that could lead to accidents and procedures set in place for deciding who is to render medical care. This is not an issue that can be set in stone, rather guidelines which should be followed.

There is no connection between the Ambulance Subscription Scheme levied through the Electricity Account and the fees charged by the Queensland Ambulance Service for services provided at Shows or Events. The levy is a charge administered by the Treasury Department while the fees charged by the Queensland Ambulance Service is their own scale of charges for services rendered. A strong deputation to the Ambulance Commissioner failed to negotiate any reduction in the fee charges although they were very understanding of the issue. Very often additional Paramedics have to be rostered on duty to provide the services required in in some circumstances.

If Show Societies are considering engaging the Queensland Ambulance Service to provide the necessary First Aid requirement they should contact the Officer in Charge of the local or nearest Ambulance Station no less than one month prior to the event. This is to allow sufficient time for the staff roster system to be organised and to ensure that Paramedics are available. There is a formal process to determine what level of service is required and for what period of dedicated service is required, if any. Once the survey has been completed and the recommendation offered it is up to the Society to determine whether to accept or reject the offer made by the Ambulance personnel.

If the Show Society rejects the proposal offered then they must accept full responsibility to seek and engage a suitable First Aid Service to cover the event.

There are several options available but every area is different and also the type of service required.

- (1) Engage the Ambulance Service on a stand-by system whereby the Ambulance operate from the Showgrounds, but they are subject to any call-outs required away from the ground. This could leave the grounds uncovered with a First Aid Service for any number of occasions and time. Another First Aid Service would need to be available in the interim.
- (2) Only employ the Ambulance Service for a dedicated period of time for recognised high risk events. A qualified First Aid person or trained First Responder, if available in the area, would have to be engaged for all remaining time.
- (3) Engage the services of St Johns Ambulance if there is a service available for the area. St Johns cannot transport patients.
- (4) Engage a qualified First Aid person or a trained First Responder, if available, and only call an Ambulance when necessary.
- (5) A Sub-Chamber nominates at least two (2) interested persons to be trained as Senior First Aid Personnel to service all the Shows within the Sub-Chamber at a moderate cost. This could need the services of Paramedics for any dedicated period as required for the event. The QLD Ambulance Service can train these persons to the level suggested.

Senior First Aid persons are not trained to give pain killing injections.

The following is an extract from the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies By-Laws:

### 3.1 First Aid

- 3.1.1 The Show Society Organising Committee for all events conducted pursuant to the Rules of the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies, excepting where those Rules specify that an event is required to have a higher standard of First Aid or Medical Attention (for example, EFA Events), shall ensure that the event is supplied at all times with an approved standard of First Aid equipment (that is, First Aid Kit) and at least one qualified Red Cross, St Johns or Sports Medicine Australia First Aid provider or equivalent at a Level 2 Standard or higher.
- 3.1.2 The Event Organising Committee for all events conducted pursuant to the Rules of the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies shall ensure that an appropriate Emergency Procedure and Emergency Contact Details are readily available in the Show Society or event organisers office and are kept on display in a suitable location, such as the Public Address point.
- 3.1.3 The Show Society or Event Organising Committee for all events conducted pursuant to the Rules of the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies shall ensure that an accurate record is kept of all incidents requiring First Aid treatment and that this record is kept by the Society for a minimum of five years as required by Federal Legislation.

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