



## Note to Organizers on Emergency Responses

The ARA's expectation on emergency response has been a recent topic of discussion with organizers. At the organizer meeting, there was a discussion on ambulance and extrication response. The incidents last year have put us under higher scrutiny and have caused reflection in several different areas. As a follow up, I would like to layout the expectations for emergency response.

First Response: The first response requirements are basically unchanged from previous years. All stages must have a qualified person (paramedic, EMT, nurse, etc.) in a vehicle at the start of the stage. This person must be able to be the first response to an incident to perform initial evaluation and life-saving techniques, such as CPR. They must be able to communicate with Net Control to advise on the situation and request additional resources, such as an ambulance, if necessary. Evolving from this concept means there does not need to be a medical person in safety sweep. As long as there is a medical person stationed at every start, this is no longer required and becomes redundant.

Ambulance: An ambulance (ideally ALS) should never be more than 15 minutes from the start of a stage and preferably closer. This likely means the event will need to have at least one dedicated ambulance, sometimes more. This may stress local resources, so discussions specific to the events must be had. The ambulance response times have been very inconsistent and concerning, prompting a need to be addressed immediately. We can't be reliant on an ambulance that may take upwards of 40 minutes to arrive, if the event is reliant on calling 911.

Extrication: I have discussed this with many events the last few years. A clear plan for extrication needs to be in place. This must include details on who will be used if an extrication is necessary and their tooling. They must also be familiar with roll cages. This can be filled by a local fire department, independent company, or volunteers. If a fire department is going to be used, they should be aware pre-event they are filling this role and response time must be understood. It is helpful for anyone performing extrication to attend scrutineering to see the vehicles up close and be able to ask questions.

Fire: The events are required to have basic fire fighting capabilities and a clear plan if additional resources need to be called. Safety sweep and sweep vehicles should have 10BC extinguishers (or equivalent) or larger, or the equivalent. All finishes should have at least 1 fire extinguisher as well.

Safety Sweep: The key duty of Safety Sweep is to give the "safety net" that all other competitors, just as competitors cover each other. The expectation is they are within a few minutes of the last vehicle on the road at all times. A radio operator to communicate with net and the stage must be in the vehicle, but a medical person is no longer required. The safety sweep team must review all stopped vehicles to make sure no immediate attention is needed, then continue down the road. If safety sweep passes a vehicle, they are no longer competing. We haven't addressed the "tug and go", but if that were to occur, it must happen very quickly so the safety net for the other competitors is still in place.

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