

**Question: Are all ambulance staff trained?**

**Answer:** Yes, they are professionals, trained to various levels, such as:

1. EMR - Emergency Medical Responder  
Basic first aid and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training
2. EMT - Emergency Medical Technician
3. EMT-A - Emergency Medical Technician-Advanced. They are trained to do more than EMTs, including starting an IV, administering specific medications.
4. EMT - Paramedics. They provide the highest skill levels in EMS in Saskatchewan.

**Question: What is the average response time?**

**Answer:** Within the cities of Weyburn and Estevan, response time is five minutes or less, 95 per cent of the time. In rural areas, where Sun Country Health Region often uses on-call services, staff try to be at the Ambulance Station within 10 minutes of being called. From there, response time varies according to distance and weather conditions.

**Our first priority is always the safety of patients, staff and the general public.**

**Other drivers can help us by pulling over to the right side of the road and stopping whenever they hear the siren, as required by law.**

The basic  
Ambulance Service Fee  
is \$245.  
All patients are charged  
this minimum amount.

For more information,  
please contact:

**Sun Country Health Region**

**Box 2003**

**Weyburn, Saskatchewan**

**S4H 2Z9**

**Tel: (306) 842-8399**

**Fax: (306) 842-8738**

**Email: [info@schr.sk.ca](mailto:info@schr.sk.ca)**

**Website: [www.suncountry.sk.ca](http://www.suncountry.sk.ca)**

*For more information  
about charges, call 842-0223.*

**Comments & Concerns Line:**

**Toll free: 1-800-696-1622**



**Your  
ambulance  
ride  
can cost you**



*The cost of ambulance service in Saskatchewan is shared between Sun Country Health Region, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, and private insurers. If you have no private insurance, you will be responsible for charges incurred.*

**Question: What does ambulance service cost?**

**Answer:** The basic pickup fee, every time the ambulance goes out, is \$245. All patients are charged this minimum amount. The mileage fee is \$2.30 per kilometre for all out-of-town calls. If the ambulance must wait (for example, during a trip to a specialist in Regina), the first half-hour is free. A waiting fee of \$100 is charged for every hour after.

**If you are over 65 years of age, the Saskatchewan Senior Citizens' Ambulance Assistance Program (SCAAP) will pay for ambulance fees above the first \$275 on any one trip.**

Sun Country Health Region's fees for ambulance services are in line with the current provincial rates charged by most ambulance services, whether public or private.

**Question: Can I avoid the cost with private insurance?**

**Answer:** Yes. People will often carry private insurance to cover the cost of ambulance services. They pay the insurance premiums themselves, or receive the service as a workplace benefit.



The basic ambulance fee is \$245. All patients are charged this amount.

**Question: If a doctor orders the ambulance, will I still be charged?**

**Answer:** Yes. For any trip in an ambulance, you will be charged the rates listed above.

**Question: Why does the ambulance cost so much?**

**Answer:** Equipment and trained staff are costly. A new ambulance costs \$120,000. Two well-trained staff are provided for every ambulance trip. The cost of gas, vehicle maintenance and life saving/ sustaining equipment is very high.

**Question: Are the fees charged to clients the actual cost of the service or am I paying for other things as well?**

**Answer:** The rate you pay is NOT the total cost. Emergency services like ambulances are subsidized by the Saskatchewan government.

**Question: How do I call for an ambulance?**

**Answer:** In an emergency situation, always call **9-1-1**.

Remain calm; answer the questions and give your address clearly. Ambulance staff can respond better if they know details about the situation before they arrive.

Also, in rural areas, it is important to know your land location.

If it's dark outside, please turn on an outside light. Clear as big a path to the

patient as possible. Prepare a list of the patient's medications or bag them to send with the patient. A family member may often accompany the patient in the ambulance.

**Question: I've heard the ambulance called EMS. What is that?**

**Answer:** Ambulance service is just one part of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provided by Sun Country Health Region. Other services include Lifeline; First Responder Education; International Trauma Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support Classes.