



East Olympia Fire District 6 Basic Life Support Transport User Fee *Frequently Asked Questions*

In efforts to better serve the citizens of East Olympia Fire District 6, beginning in April 2020, the District 6 will begin providing Basic Life Support (BLS) patient transport services under limited circumstances.

Under what circumstances will East Olympia Fire District 6 transport a patient?

The District applied for and received a limited transport license, from the Washington State Department of Health, to transport patients when a private ambulance is not available or is delayed, when a patient appears to meet Thurston County stroke protocol, or a patient's condition requires immediate transport for ALS care, to name a few.

Is there a charge for transport services by East Olympia Fire District #6 to a critical care facility?

Yes, patients transported by a Basic Life Support (BLS) unit will be charged for transport whether transported by East Olympia Fire District 6 or a private ambulance company.

When did the BLS Transport Fee begin?

The East Olympia Fire District 6 Commissioners adopted the fee on March 11, 2020.

What is the BLS Transport User Fee?

The current fee is \$750.00 plus \$16.00 per mile transported.

Why was a BLS Transport User Fee implemented?

The fee was implemented to help cover the costs associated with providing this new service.

Are there other fire districts in Thurston County that charge a fee for transport?

Yes, East Olympia Fire District 6 is nearly one of the last remaining fire districts to begin transporting and charging a fee for transport service.

Will a patient receive a bill from East Olympia Fire District 6 if they are not transported by the fire district?

No, patients that are medically evaluated, but not transported by fire district personnel will not receive a bill for services provided at the emergency scene.

Who is responsible for paying for EMS transport?

The patient transported. In most cases, however, the transported patient's insurance company(s) – Medicaid, Medicare and most other private insurance policies (health, auto, and/or homeowners) will pay all or part of the charge.

What if a patient transported does not have health insurance or cannot afford to pay for the service?

The ability to pay is never a condition of service. The District will make every effort to accommodate those who wish to pay out-of-pocket, on an installment plan, or apply for relief through the District's Financial Assistance Policy. Many auto and homeowner insurance policies provide some form of medical coverage. Patients should review their various insurance policies to verify the limits of coverage under each policy.

Can a patient refuse transport by Fire District personnel?

Yes, patients that refuse to be transported are asked to sign a refusal form.

Are patients asked to sign documents at the time of service?

Yes, patients are asked to complete and sign a release authorizing the patients insurance company to be billed, or a release signed by the patients authorized representative if the patient is physically or mentally incapable of signing. Also, verification that the patient received the legally required East Olympia Fire District's Notice of Privacy Practices.

If a patient is not able to provide the information at the time of service, emergency personnel will attempt to get the information at the hospital, or the patient will be asked by the District's billing service to provide the information at a later date.

Who does the patient call with questions about billing, insurance or financial assistance?

East Olympia Fire District 6
C/O Billing Services
P.O. Box 3510
Silverdale, WA 98383

1-800-238-9398
or
(360)-394-7010