

Amber Valley Community First Responders

WHAT DO THEY DO?

Amber Valley First Responders are a registered charity (no.1115355) that provides a voluntary service which runs in partnership with East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EMAS). Operating since 2003, their aim is to respond to 999 calls in the shortest possible time and begin life-saving treatment prior to the arrival of an NHS emergency ambulance.

Any essential equipment must be purchased via fund-raising and donations. They are looking to provide a defibrillator, which delivers a controlled electric shock to a victim whose heart has stopped, in each of the four main towns in our area. Each defibrillator costs £1800, but used just once to save a life is deemed priceless to the families of those they help.



left to right: Martin Bishton (Community First Responder), Keith Smith (Trustee), Wayne Lenton (Trustee) and Dave Roberts (Trustee and Group Founder / Co-ordinator)

THE FACTS:

When someone collapses and their heart stops (cardiac arrest), help is needed within 3-4 minutes before the body begins to irreversibly shut down. Amber Valley Community First Responders aim to be in the community with the equipment, making the treatment much closer to the patient. When the heart stops, for each minute thereafter which passes, the chances of survival decrease by as much as 7-10%. Within 10 minutes of collapsing, there is very little chance of a victim surviving. Amber Valley Community First Responders have already saved 9 lives, and with more funding to purchase vital equipment, they can help more people.



Every ambulance service would relish being able to afford an ambulance for every street corner, but unfortunately, it is financially impossible. EMAS continually exceed the government standard of reaching 75% of all life-threatening calls and by providing this volunteer service, First Responders can help increase that further. In layman's terms ... they assist EMAS in providing the fastest possible service to people in their time of need.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED?

Amber Valley First Responders only has 6 volunteers at this time covering approximately 100 square miles of rural Derbyshire! They receive around 15 calls for service each week. Anyone who has an acute medical problem who happens to be in their area of operation can benefit from their skills. Readers of All Things Local can help them to improve the way they work by way of visiting their open days.

AMBER VALLEY FIRST RESPONDERS ARE ACTIVELY RECRUITING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY, AGED 18-70, ACCESS TO A CAR AND WILLING TO LEARN ... THE TRAINING AND EVERYTHING ELSE COMES FREE!! FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT THE WEBSITE: www.avrs.org OR CONTACT 07768 694793

