



Emergency Preparedness and Safety

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Fact Sheet

In an emergency, seconds can be the difference between life and death. Prop 11 ensures emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics can quickly respond to provide critical care for Californians when they call 911.

Background

- In 2016, a California Supreme Court decision (*Augustus vs. ABM Security Services*) stated that private security guards could no longer be reachable during their rest breaks – even during an emergency.
- If applied to private ambulance crews, this ruling could end the longstanding practice of paying private EMTs and paramedics to remain reachable during their work breaks, which has been common practice for the last 50 years (this is also how public EMTs, paramedics, firefighters and police officers operate).
- This means if the closest ambulance to an emergency is on break, 911 dispatchers would have NO WAY to reach the ambulance crew because California law would require all communications devices to be turned OFF and the crew to be completely unreachable.
- This would seriously impact public safety in California because private EMTs and paramedics respond to about 75% of the state's 911 emergency medical calls.

Prop 11 Ensures California's 911 Emergency Care Will Not Be Delayed

- Prop 11 establishes into law the longstanding industry practice of paying private EMTs and paramedics to remain reachable during their work breaks in case of an emergency – *just like firefighters and police officers*.
- Prop 11 ensures public safety will not be compromised when a patient needs 911 emergency care and an ambulance will not be delayed or prevented from responding.

Prop 11 Provides EMTs & Paramedics With FEMA Level Training for Disasters

- It is essential that EMTs and paramedics are able to respond quickly and deliver lifesaving medical care during mass casualty events, like active shooter incidents and natural disasters.
- Prop 11 requires that emergency medical crews are paid by their employer to receive additional training that meets FEMA standards for violence prevention, active shooter, mass casualty, and natural disaster incidents.

Prop 11 Says EMTs & Paramedics Should Receive Mental Health Benefits

- It takes a special type of person to be an EMT or paramedic — often times responding to medical emergencies in a high stress work environment and encountering tragedies.
- Prop 11 requires employers to provide emergency medical crews with mandatory mental health coverage, as well as yearly mental health and wellness training.

Prop 11 Gives EMTs & Paramedics Workplace Protections

- EMTs and paramedics should have workplace protections to ensure they are well-rested.
- Prop 11 continues the practice of giving EMTs and paramedics an additional hour of pay if they miss a break and it cannot be made up during their work shift.
- Prop 11 also requires 911 ambulance operators to maintain high enough staffing levels to provide coverage for breaks.

Paid for by Yes on 11 - Californians for Emergency Preparedness and Safety,
 Committee Major Funding from
 American Medical Response (AMR)
 Funding Details at <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/>

Prop 11 Saves Local Government & Taxpayers Tens of Millions of Dollars Annually

- The Independent Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) found that if Prop 11 does not pass and the status quo were to be applied to the private ambulance industry, it would represent "a substantial net cost to providers – potentially in excess of \$100 million annually."
- As a result, these increased costs could be passed onto local governments who contract with private ambulance companies, ultimately falling on taxpayers. Even worse, the LAO predicted that the increased costs could be passed onto health insurance companies, raising prices for patients who use ambulance services.
- Therefore, the LAO stated that Prop 11 would "result in net savings to local governments in the tens of millions of dollars annually that result from lower ambulance provider net costs reflected in agency contracts with these providers.
- This means local government will have more money for other essential services, like parks, libraries, and police and fire services.