

## Cyndie Martel

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**From:** Gary Scales <garrettscales@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 4:33 PM  
**To:** CouncilAll  
**Cc:** Christa Johnson; sburdo@townofsananselmo.org; dmahoney@rossvalleyfire.org; info@rosspropertyowners.com; Dave Allen  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Ross Valley Paramedic Station in Ross

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The recent *Marin Voice* article, “**Ross Valley Fire Department Has a Plan,**” made it clear that the closure of the Ross fire station is a *fait accompli*. However, Steve Burdo, president of the RVFD Board of Directors, affirms that “*Ross will remain the exclusive base for the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority’s paramedics and ambulance.*” This statement is echoed by Ross Mayor Bill Kircher in the February 2025 issue of *The Ross Morning After*.

Given these assurances, it is now critically important to understand precisely what emergency medical response resources will be available to Ross Valley residents from the Ross paramedic base. To that end, I have included generally accepted definitions of the two levels of pre-hospital care rendered in response to a 911 medical emergency call, along with a clarification of who is qualified to administer them.

I am sure you all agree that Ross Valley residents deserve confirmation from the RVFD, RVPA and the Ross Town Council that:

1. Paramedic and emergency response services will not be downgraded and,
2. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics, providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) will be available for dispatch from the Ross paramedic station.

Respectfully,

Gary Scales  
4 Berry Lane, Ross

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL/PARAMEDIC RESPONSE

A typical **911 paramedic response** is designed to provide **immediate medical care and stabilization** at the scene before transporting the patient to an emergency department if needed. The response team generally consists of **Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and/or Paramedics**, depending on the severity of the emergency and the local EMS system.

### Levels of EMS Response

There are generally **two levels** of pre-hospital emergency medical responders:

#### 1. EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians)

- EMTs provide **basic life support (BLS)** and are trained to handle non-life-threatening and some urgent medical situations.
- Their capabilities include:
  - **CPR and defibrillation** (using an Automated External Defibrillator, or AED)**Oxygen administration**
  - **Bleeding control and wound care**

- **Splinting and immobilization** for fractures or spinal injuries
- **Basic airway management** (e.g., using a bag-valve mask)
- **Assisting with certain medications** (such as epinephrine auto-injectors for allergic reactions)

## 2. Paramedics (Advanced Life Support - ALS)

- Paramedics provide **advanced life support (ALS)** and can deliver life-saving medical treatments in the field.
- Their expanded skill set includes:
  - **Endotracheal intubation** and advanced airway management
  - **Intravenous (IV) therapy** for fluids and medications
  - **Administration of emergency medications** (such as painkillers, anti-seizure meds, cardiac drugs, and epinephrine)
  - **Cardiac monitoring and interpretation of ECGs**
  - **Defibrillation and advanced cardiac life support (ACLS)**
  - **Needle decompression** for collapsed lungs
  - **Managing severe trauma, stroke, and heart attack cases**

## Typical 911 Emergency Response

### 1. Call Received & Dispatch

- The **911 operator** assesses the situation and determines the appropriate response.
- A **Basic Life Support (BLS) unit** (with EMTs) or an **Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit** (with Paramedics) is dispatched.

### 2. Arrival & On-Scene Assessment

- Upon arrival, **EMTs or Paramedics assess the patient's condition** and begin necessary treatments.
- In life-threatening cases, **paramedics may start interventions immediately** to stabilize the patient.

### 3. Treatment & Stabilization

- If the case requires **ALS interventions**, paramedics provide **life-saving measures on-site** before transport.
- In some cases, EMTs alone may be sufficient to stabilize the patient.

### 4. Transport to the Hospital (if necessary)

- The team determines whether **immediate transport** is needed or if the patient can be treated on-site.
- During transport, EMTs or paramedics continue **monitoring and treatment** until they reach the emergency department.