



FITCH-RONA EMS

EMS Student Guidebook

About Fitch-Rona

The Fitch-Rona EMS District was created in 1977. Like most departments, Fitch-Rona was staffed by hardworking volunteers from the local communities. These dedicated EMTs were the backbone of the department for many years. In 2001, Fitch-Rona became the first paramedic service in Dane County outside of the City of Madison. It has grown to three EMS stations, 21 full-time paramedics, 15 part-time paramedics, 2 interns, 1 part-time office staff, 1 full-time deputy chief, and 1 full-time chief.

In 2022, Fitch-Rona responded to 4,267 calls for service. Our EMS district includes the City of Fitchburg, the City of Verona, and Verona Township. We are also the ALS intercept/mutual aid ambulance for most of Southwestern Dane County.

Additional resources that work closely with Fitch-Rona are the Police and Fire Departments in Fitchburg, the Police and Fire Departments in Verona, and Dane County Sheriff's Office, which serves the Verona Township.

Preceptor Qualifications

The average paramedic at Fitch-Rona has been employed here for more than 10 years. The paramedics at Fitch-Rona are supportive of continuing the education process from the classroom and clinical environments to the field and each comes with a wealth of experience for students to learn from.

The designated preceptors all exceed the requirements of WI DHS 110.51 to precept students at the paramedic level and below.

Expectations

EMS students at Fitch-Rona are expected to be part of the prehospital team. This includes team leadership and membership as defined by the WI DHS EMS office.

A Team Leader "must demonstrate the ability to perform a comprehensive assessment as well as both formulate and implement an appropriate treatment plan at the EMS level for which he or she is receiving training."

A Team Member must perform "all or some of the duties associated with the EMS level of care for which the student is receiving training. The exception is that the students may not necessarily perform all the expected skills and duties of someone licensed to the level for which he or she is receiving training, but he or she must demonstrate the ability to make patient care decisions based on all elements gathered to form a general impression of the patient and a working diagnosis...at the Advanced Life Support Level...this category applies to the patient who received an ALS evaluation in which critical thinking skills are used to gather, weigh, and synthesis patient information in order to formulate a diagnosis and plan of care for the patient..."

In addition, part of being a prehospital provider is good scene management. The ability to effectively coordinate a myriad of emergency personnel and resources is an essential skill of an EMS provider in order to ensure the best patient outcome.

Finally, self-motivation, respect, appearance, personal hygiene, and time management, are all attributes of an EMS provider. At Fitch-Rona, the staff expects that students will arrive on time, in the appropriate uniform, well-groomed, and prepared to be actively engaged throughout their shift. This includes, but is not limited to, equipment checks, performing station duties, participating in scheduled training, and “hip-pocket” training that crew members may provide to students throughout the day.

Patients and hospitals don’t differentiate between a student and a full-time paramedic. They only see Fitch-Rona on the ambulance. Any issues that may arise from a student’s reported lack of performance, motivation, or other expectations as described above, will be reflected on the student’s paperwork and relayed back to the training center. This may result in a request that the student leaves the service during a shift, or potentially a request that the student does not return at all.

Scheduling

The point of contact at Fitch-Rona for student schedules is below:

Primary-

Chief Patrick Anderson

Office- 608-497-2952

Cell – 608-279-2849

PatrickA@Fitchronaems.com

Secondary-

Deputy Chief Jeff Dostalek

Office - 608-497-2951

Cell – 608-322-7040

JeffD@Fitchronaems.com

The full-time paramedics work a 24 on/48 off schedule with a Kelly day (Sunday/Wednesday) off every 3 weeks. The Preceptor guidelines at Fitch-Rona allow students to ride from 7 am to 7 pm, Monday through Saturday, unless special exceptions have been made with the training center. **All ride time must be coordinated through a Chief/Deputy Chief with full knowledge of the responsible training center.**

Please also be aware that due to staffing situations, you may be asked to switch stations, or your shifts may be canceled or rescheduled.

Station Locations and Access

There are three Fitch-Rona EMS Stations.

Fitchburg Fire Station #3 (Medic 43)

2950 South Syene Rd

Fitchburg, WI 53713

(Parking lot access is off of West Clayton Rd)

Fitchburg Fire Station #2 (Medic 44/46)

2931 Marketplace Dr

Fitchburg, WI 53719

EMS -608-470-7065

Verona Fire Station (Medic 45/47)

101 Lincoln St
Verona, WI 53593
EMS - 608-497-2909
Fire – 608-845-9401

All buildings are secured with electronic pass keys. Students with multiple shifts, may be issued an “EMS Student” pass key. This will allow them access to the buildings. The student is responsible for this key. It is only to be used for the purpose of gaining access to the building during their designated ride time and must be returned upon completion of their ride time. Students with the occasional shift should call the station numbers above to gain access to the buildings.

Meals

Each crew is different at Fitch-Rona. Some crews do communal meals, while others pack their own. You are welcome to contribute funds to communal meals when offered, but it is not required. Each station does have a full kitchen available for you to use. All of the stations are near multiple eating establishments and grocery stores. It is suggested to communicate with your preceptor at the beginning of your shift what your meal requirements are as well as remember that due to the nature of EMS, you may not get back to the station during traditional meal hours.

Sleeping Quarters

For those students who are granted exceptions, and will spend an overnight shift at Fitch-Rona, sleeping quarters are provided. Students must bring all of their own bedding and pillow. No linen is provided. Shower facilities are available at both stations. Crews and students are responsible for cleaning up their sleeping areas each morning when going off shift.

Overhead paging/lights are activated when paged for calls.

Fitchburg dorms – The dorms in Fitchburg are individual rooms with a twin bed, nightstand, and chair.

Verona dorms – The dorms in Verona are individual rooms with a twin bed, nightstand, and chairs.

Safety

The safety of our patients, crews, and students is of utmost importance. All of Fitch-Rona’s crews are provided with EMS-level protective gear, high-visibility jackets and vests, and helmets. Students will have access to high-visibility vests and turn-out gear to place on the ambulance at the beginning of their shift. *Students will follow the directions of their preceptors at all times while on EMS calls*, which may mean a student is asked to remain on, or near the ambulance, due to the nature of the call.

Students must wear their training center student ID at all times while on shift and must always identify themselves as a student. Patients have the right to refuse care from a student. Students should respect this right and maintain professionalism as they assist the crew members with continued patient care.

Patient Confidentiality

All students should have been trained prior to their field time on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Patient information and all aspects of patient care are protected and students will not share their knowledge of patient contacts outside of a training environment except as covered by HIPAA. All information used for training purposes will be de-identified of Personal Health Information (PHI) and patient demographics.

Social Media

Fitch-Rona has a social media policy for our staff. Students are expected to be compliant as well. At no time should patient information, call information, or comments about Fitch-Rona, other EMS services, hospitals, preceptors, or other experiences or interactions that happen while in the role as a student, be posted on a social media site. Taking pictures and personal cell phone use while on calls is strictly prohibited.

Summary

Please utilize this opportunity to absorb years of experience and best practices from the paramedics at Fitch-Rona. They are all dedicated to your success and ensuring you leave our service with an appreciation of the EMS system and high standards of patient care.

The Staff and Paramedics at Fitch-Rona EMS