

Six Things You're Probably Not Doing  
To Become 9-1-1 Smart

## Six Things You're Probably Not Doing



1. When emergency medical personnel enter your home, do you have a Medical Data Sheet detailing current prescriptions and a short medical history readily available to hand off to the paramedics for every member of your family? ( 2 points max)
2. Is your address on BOTH sides of your mailbox using a minimum of 3-inch high white reflective numbers on a dark background? (3 points max)
3. Can a 9-1-1 responder see your address at night from a distance of 100 feet arriving from the opposite direction of the mail service? (2 points max)
4. Do you have a designated alternate key holder(s) and are they registered with the 9-1-1 communication center? (2 points max)
5. Do you know where your backup fire hydrant is located and does it really work? Is your primary hydrant clear of debris? (2 points max)
6. Are your utility emergency shut-offs clearly labeled? (2 points max)
7. Do you know what to do when an emergency vehicle (Police or Fire/EMS) is approaching from behind and you are on the uphill side, the downhill side or cresting a steep hill on a two-lane road? (2 points max)
8. When an emergency vehicle is approaching from behind do you keep your foot on the brake to alert the emergency vehicle driver that your vehicle is stopped or stopping? (1 point)
9. Do you have working smoke/fire detectors in all appropriate rooms and do you have up-to-date fire extinguishers, and know how to use them? (3 points)
10. If you have special needs children or adults living with you, have you notified the 9-1-1 center about their needs? (1 point)

20 points = Perfect Score



## Multiple Choice

1. You already know the ambulance and fire truck can travel fast going forward, but how fast can they travel in reverse? (A) 5 MPH, (B) 10 MPH, (C) The speed of a person walking backwards
2. You call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency. Who is typically the first one to arrive and why? (A) Ambulance, (B) Fire truck, (C) Police officer
3. On average, fire doubles in size every 30-45 seconds depending on fuel source, oxygen supply and heat source. Two minutes after a fire starts, it could be how much larger? (A) x4, (B) x8, (C) x 16
4. How often should you exercise (turn off and turn on) your main water shut off valve? (A) Never, (B) Annually, (C) Every 2 years
5. Is a funeral procession classified as emergency vehicles? (A) Yes, (B) No
6. Just because an ambulance is not running sirens & lights, does that mean they are not transporting a patient? (A) Yes, (B) No, (C) Maybe
7. Who is responsible for clearing obstructions around a fire hydrant? (A) Fire Dept., (B) Highway Dept., (C) Property Owner, (D) Water Dept.



## Answers:

1. (C) If an ambulance or fire truck drives past your location because of poor address signage, they may decide to back up instead of looking for a turnaround location. Because kids are often attracted to lights & sirens and can easily be hidden behind an emergency vehicle, one of the responders often exits the vehicle and walks behind to assure the driver a clear path, Wasting Precious Time! Another reason to practice *Good 9-1-1 Addressing!*
2. (C) Quite often a police officer is the first to arrive because they are already on the road and may be near your location. They respond to handle traffic issues that may delay the arrival of other responding vehicles.
3. (B) A two-minute delay in responding, because of poor addressing or street signage, could mean the fire is 8 times larger.
4. (B) Annually you should make sure the emergency water shutoff valve turns freely.
5. (A) Yes
6. (C) Maybe. Ambulances transport patients, assume a patient is on board even without sirens & lights. Please do not cut in front of them. If you were an ambulance patient consider how you would respond if the vehicle driver had to suddenly slam on the brakes because of being cutoff.
7. (C) Most often, the property owner is responsible for clearing fire hydrant obstructions.

