

PRE-HOSPITAL CARE OF CRITICALLY INJURED PATIENTS

By: Prof. L. Munkonge
Neonatal and Paediatric Surgical Unit
University Teaching Hospital
Lusaka, **ZAMBIA.**

Definition

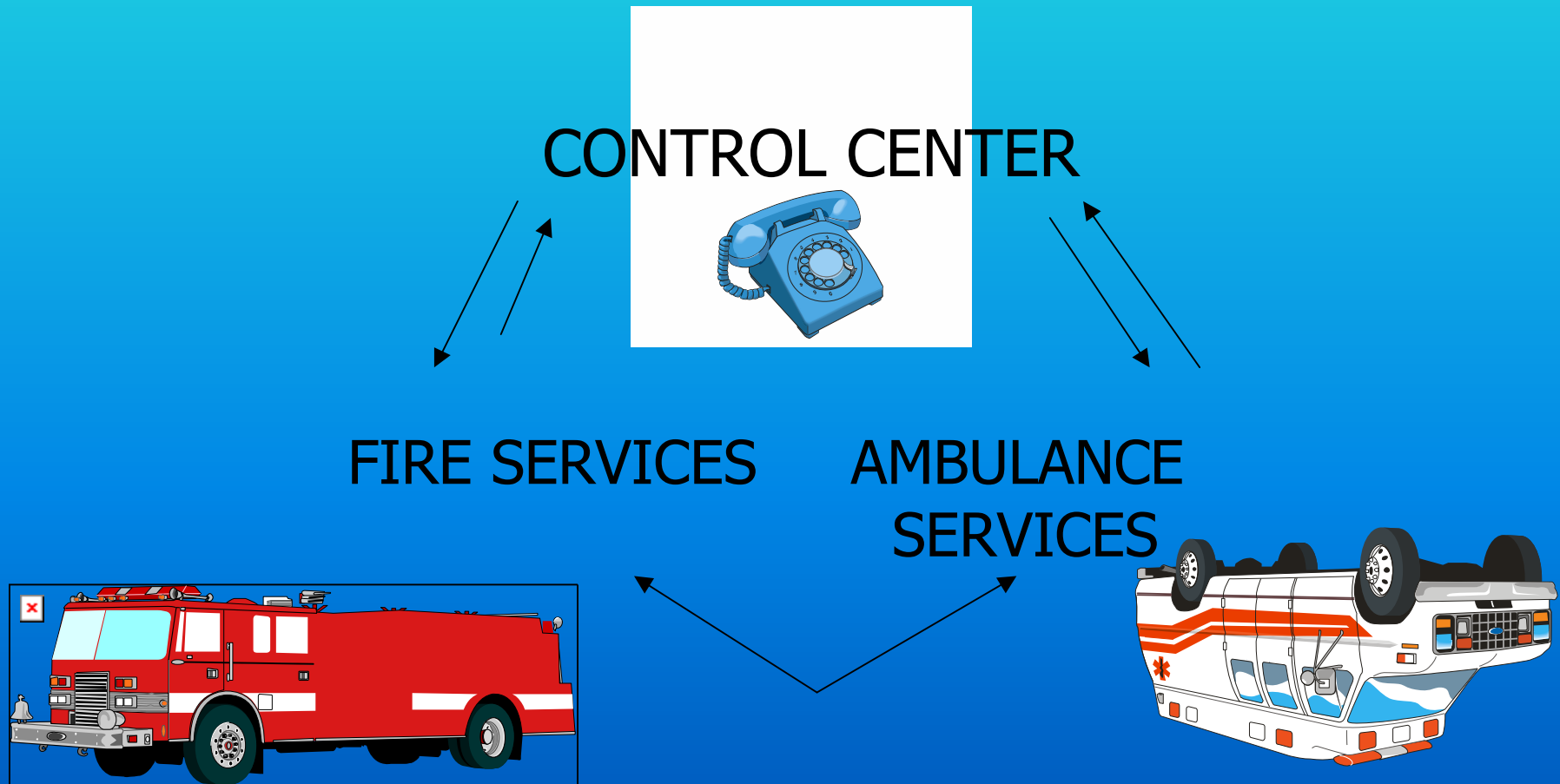
“Pre-Hospital Care of Critically Injured Patients”: is a comprehensive health package which is specifically tailored for basic life support system in patients involved in major accidents.



This Basic Life Support should be available within 20 minutes and should not exceed three hours otherwise the mortality would be high among the serious accident victims.

Pre-Hospital Emergency Care

- a) Ideal situation
A Heavily Subsidized State Services



Center

- 24 Hours
- Trained Personnel
- Communication Equipment



Fire

- Fire Extinguisher vehicles
- Communication Equipment
- Personnel: Basic Ambulance Assistants

Ambulance Emergency Centers

- Communication Equipment
- Fully Equipped Ambulances with life support equipment.
- Planes
- Helicopters

Training Institutions

- For
 - Firemen
 - Paramedics



Level 1: Basic Life Support (BLS) Basic Ambulance Assistant

- Skills
- Basic First Aid
- Spinal immobilization
- Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation
- Oxygen administration
- Child birth

Level 2: Intermediate Life Support (ILS) Ambulance Emergency Assistant

- Skills: As above including:
- Intravenous drip insertion
- IV administration of Dextrose
- Nebulisation of B2 stimulants (Salbutamol)
- Administration of Asprin
- Basic ECG Dysrhythmia interpretation

- Defibrillation of pulses Ventricular Tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation
- Needle chest decompression
- Child birth

Level 3: Advanced Life Support (ALS) Critical Care Assistant

Skills: As above including:

- Advanced airway techniques (intubation)
- IV administration of analgesics, anti convulsants, anti-emetics, resuscitation drugs, B2 Stimulants, Steroids (hydrocortisone, methylprednisilone), sedatives.

- Cannulation of external Jugular and femoral veins
- Cardioversion (pulsed ventricular tachycardia, or Supraventricular tachycardia).
- Transcutaneous pacing
- ECG rhythm interpretation
- Child Birth.

The Current Situation in Zambia

- Economy - Poor
- Donor dependent
- No Ambulance Services
- Fire Fighting Equipment - Non Existence
 - Examples - Kawambwa student disaster
 - Chambeshi Mine Explosion

- Choma - Train Accident
- Teacher - On TV Pole - (Suicide)

Solution

- Private Ambulances - SES
- MARS
- No Private Fire fighting Bureau
- Police
- Army
- Hospitals