

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VILLAGE OF ANTIOCH ACTS TO PROTECT CITIZENS FROM
MISLEADING, ILLEGAL ADS DISTRIBUTED BY
ANTIOCH RESCUE SQUAD**

Last Thursday, June 27, 2013, the Antioch Rescue Squad distributed a flyer to an unknown number of people, including senior citizens and disabled individuals. A copy of the flyer is attached. In this flyer, ARS claimed to be able to provide emergency medical services inside the Village of Antioch and directed people to call its own phone number instead of 911 in emergencies.

ARS is not licensed to provide emergency medical services inside the Village of Antioch. More importantly, state law and common sense require all emergency calls to be placed through the governmental dispatch system - the 911 emergency phone number.

By directing people to use an alternate number, the following dangerous situations were established:

1. There is a delay inherent with a two-call system, even if it works as represented.
2. Delays can and do cost lives in emergency medical situations.
3. There is no geographical tracking of the calls possible, as there is with the enhanced 911 system, meaning that if there's a hang-up or dropped call, there's no hope of finding the person in need of emergency services.
4. If collateral resources, such as fire or police are needed, they won't be dispatched along with ARS, leading to more delay and quite likely substantial risk of enhanced loss of life, limb or property.
5. ARS's own personnel won't be accompanied by police based on this call, endangering their own people.

Additionally, ARS wasn't even manning their phone properly, shown by a test phone call to their number placed Friday morning which went ringing, unanswered for five full minutes. Had that been a genuine emergency, the person trying to get help would have been dead.

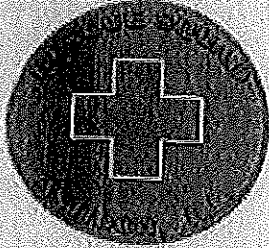
Immediately upon learning of this, and at the direction of the Mayor, the Village Administrator issued a Cease and Desist letter and the Village Attorney threatened a lawsuit designed to enjoin the illegal activity. The acts were also reported to the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Emergency Telephone System Board for further prosecution.

Faced with this challenge, ARS has ceased distributing these flyers and has arranged for all calls to its number to be forwarded to 911 for proper handling. Unfortunately, call-forwarding does not allow all the features of enhanced 911 to follow the call. Only real 911 calls can provide dispatchers with wireless or landline locating.

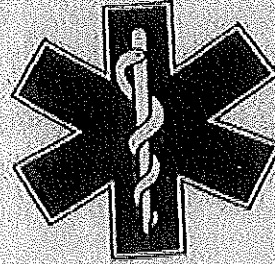
Mayor Hanson said: "If a citizen needs help in an emergency, he or she needs to call 911. No matter whatever anyone else says, that's the way that all local governments work together to make sure that all necessary resources and personnel are available and promptly on the scene of any emergency. Directing people to use any other number is illegal and it could have cost someone his or her life. ARS owes an apology to the citizens of Antioch for selfishly trying to subvert the 911 system."

Trustee Dennis Crosby said: "ARS says it provides free services, but that's misleading. It really doesn't do this in many instances and never has. When your life's on the line, you absolutely need to call 911 and get real help right away. The Village Board is aware of the need to provide relief to people who can't afford to pay for services and we're working on it. When ARS abruptly abandoned the citizens of this Village, we've been scrambling to make sure lives are protected and our next goal is working on the finances."

Village Administrator Keim said: "When faced with the crisis caused by this illegal act, we were forced to take immediate action to protect the public. We put our full resources into this because the integrity of the 911 system is fundamental to our primary task of ensuring public safety. Every citizen needs to know to call 911 when they need help, and they need to know that help will arrive. Getting the assistance to them is our job and we cannot and will not allow any person or group to undermine that job."



Antioch Rescue Update



What has changed?

- Antioch Rescue has begun staffing Station 3 (Grasslake Road & Route 59) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with an ambulance crew.

What has not changed?

- Antioch Rescue is still providing 911 ambulance service in the unincorporated areas of Antioch.
- We are still staffing Station 1 (Downtown Antioch, across from the Piggly Wiggly) with an ambulance crew 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- ARS is still providing service to Village residents when Antioch Fire Department's resources are committed to other calls.
- Antioch Rescue is still available to provide emergency service to **any Antioch resident - including those in the Village**. Simply call 847-838-FREE (3733) and a 911 dispatcher will send an ARS ambulance to you.
- ARS still collects no tax monies and will not impact any Antioch resident financially above and beyond what is collected from your insurance.

Please call or visit our web site for more information www.antiochrescue.org