Medical Emergency

Medical emergencies should be reported immediately to Campus Public Safety (ext. 5111). Use any phone throughout the college to notify Campus Public Safety of the nature and location of the emergency.

During any emergency, particularly those requiring immediate emergency medical assistance, don’t hesitate to call 911 directly for assistance from any internal phone.

In the event that you contact 911 directly, it’s imperative to contact Campus Public Safety (ext. 5111) as soon as possible to facilitate an in-house response and to ensure coordination with emergency service personnel upon their arrival on campus.

Under no circumstances should any representative of the college provide any type of over-the-counter, home remedy or other type of medication to an injured or sick individual unless they have the appropriate training.

General guidelines are provided in assessing medical emergencies and initiating the appropriate response.

**LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES**

| 911 | Tacoma or Gig Harbor Police or Fire Departments |
| 253.566.5111 | TCC Campus Public Safety |

Life Threatening Emergencies include:
- Unconscious victim
- Victim who appears to be confused
- Difficulty breathing
- Choking
- Seizures
- Chest pain
- Serious bleeding
- Allergic reactions

An ambulance must be called for all situations listed above. This includes any ill or injured individual who is unconscious or otherwise displaying an altered level of consciousness who you suspect is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

An ambulance must be called to transport any injured or ill individual under the age of 18 not accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**MINOR ILLNESSES AND OTHER NON-LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES**

| 253.566.5111 | Notify Campus Public Safety |

- Render aid as appropriate.
  - In a non-threatening life situation, students, who are over the age of 18, can refuse medical assistance by signing a waiver form with Public Safety.
  - For students who are under the age of 18, Public Safety will make the decision for medical assistance based on injuries.

A campus first aid kit maintained at the Security Desk contains Medical Incident Response forms with a section applicable to individuals refusing medical care and/or transport. This refusal should be completed, signed and should append the original Security Incident Report

Remember, always use common sense. There are exceptions to all guidance and prescribed directions.
AUTOMATED DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

An Automated Defibrillator (AED) is used when a heart has stopped. Our AEDs have audio instructions and will not “shock” a person unless it will help them.

AEDs are located in every building on campus.

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electrical therapy which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm.

With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson, and the use of AEDs is taught in many first aid, certified first responder, and basic life support (BLS) level cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes.

BASIC FIRST AID IS NEEDED

1. Do not move the injured unless in a life-threatening situation.

2. Stay with the injured until Campus Public Safety arrives.
3. Campus Public Safety gives basic first aid and/or seeks additional treatment.

OUTSIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

1. Do not move unless in a life-threatening situation.

2. Tell the dispatcher you are reporting a medical emergency and give your name, location, and phone number.
3. Do not hang up until instructed.
4. Call Campus Public Safety at 253.566.5111.
5. Stay with the injured and try to keep them calm until help arrives.