

# TRAIL RIDER EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

## Organized Trail Ride Emergency Response Guidelines



Rider safety is of utmost importance, and we are committed to maintaining a safe and fun experience. Having a safety plan provides consistent information before each ride, maintains a common message throughout the year and provides riders with guidance when faced with a trail incident or emergency.

MINOR  
INCIDENTS

If bumps, scrapes, twisted ankles do not require emergency services ...  
Assist riders to safely return to the closest staging area or trailhead.

MAJOR  
INCIDENTS

If emergency services are required ... it is a major incident! Call 911  
Keep the person still and warm, only provide first aid as trained and able. **Don't extract the rider** ... emergency services will bring the

1. **Be specific about the location.** When calling 911, being specific will be helpful when letting dispatchers know where the incident has occurred:
  - Send someone ahead/back to note a mile marker
  - Note fixed landmarks
  - Have approximate distances from access points, GPS coordinates
2. **Use web-based maps:** If you have cell-service verify where you are using <https://quadon.ca> or the QuadOn mobile app and enable location. It will show where you are on the trail.
3. **No/poor cell service?** Dispatch a few riders where possible, never leaving the rider alone, to the rendez-vous point or trailhead to contact 911.
4. **Do not leave the rider(s) alone.** At least one rider should stay with the injured person/people to provide care as able, and to mark the area.
5. **Notify event emergency crew.** After notifying 911, if there is a dedicated emergency crew at the ride/event (i.e., at the registration area), send 2+ riders to their location to guide emergency services to the incident.
6. **Notify incoming riders.** Let riders (from both directions) know there is an incident scene ahead, to reduce speed, approach with caution, or reroute. Riders may need to go around the scene or stop altogether. This is especially important if the incident has occurred on a hill or curve.
7. **Make way for emergency services.** If emergency services must access the scene from ahead of the incident, the ride will be stopped temporarily or rerouted. An emergency vehicle may have to travel against the flow of traffic, increasing the danger of the situation. Encourage patience until the scene is cleared, and emergency personnel have left the scene.
8. **2+ emergency escort riders.** If a rider is going to meet emergency crews, where possible, have two or more riders dispatched to ensure safety.
9. **Do not leave the rendez-vous site.** If you have agreed to a rendezvous point to meet with emergency services, do not leave until they get there. If you must leave that location, call emergency services back. Let them know why you had to move and where you will be located.
10. **Keep EMS in sight.** Responding emergency services may not be familiar with the trail and area. Keep them in sight when leading them back to the incident. When the emergency crew leaves the scene with the rider(s), escort them back to the nearest access point/rendezvous location.