

The Rules of EMS

- 1. Skin signs tell all.**
- 2. Sick people don't bitch.**
- 3. Air goes in and out, blood goes round and round, any variation on this is a bad thing.**
- 4. About 80% of the battery patients deserved it.**
- 5. The more equipment you see on a EMTs belt, the newer they are.**
- 6. If you drop the baby pick it up.**
- 7. When dealing with patients, supervisors, or citizens, if it felt good saying it, it was the wrong thing to say.**
- 8. All bleeding stops....eventually.**
- 9. All people will eventually die, no matter what you do.**
- 10. If the child is quiet, be scared.**
- 11. Always follow the rules, but be wise enough to forget them sometimes.**
- 12. If the patient vomits in the rig try to hold their head to the side of the rig with the disposable equipment, not the stuff you have to clean.**
- 13. If someone dies by chemical hazards, electrical shocks or other on-scene dangers it should be the patient, not you.**
- 14. Any EMT, FF, LEO and / or scene chief who is more drunk (or more stupid) than the patient is the real problem.**
- 15. There will be problems.**
- 16. You can't cure stupid.**
- 17. If it's wet and sticky and not yours, leave it alone!**
- 18. If at all possible, avoid any edible item that firefighters prepare, especially the tuna casserole.**
- 19. Heaven protects Fools and Drunks.**

- 20. EMS is extended periods of intense boredom, interrupted by occasional moments of sheer terror.**
- 21. Every Emergency has three phases; Panic, Fear, and Remorse.**
- 22. You are bound to get a call either during dinner, while you are on the can, or at 02:00 in the middle of a great dream.**
- 23. Rocket scientists that get into stupid car crashes are the first ones to complain how bumpy the ambulance ride is.**
- 24. The severity of the injury(s) is directly proportional to the difficulty in accessing, as well as the weight, of the patient.**
- 25. Turret mounted machine guns usually work better than lights and sirens.**
- 26. Make sure the rookie EMT knows that a med patch is a radio term and not a medicated bandage.**
- 27. Paramedics save lives; But it's EMT skills that save Paramedics.**
- 28. When a patient vomits outside, be sure to aim it at the citizens who wouldn't back up.**
- 29. Never trust your rig, drug box, or airway bag to be fully stocked. In spite of the assurances of the off going crew.**
- 30. If you don't have it, don't give up, Adapt, Improve, Overcome, (then call for a second unit).**
- 31. There is no such thing as a "textbook case".**
- 32. Newbies always look for large things in the smallest compartments and vice versa.**
- 33. There is no such thing as a bad call. Only calls that didn't go the way you planned.**
- 36. If there are no drunks at an MVA after midnight, keep looking, someone is missing.**
- 37. Just because you're paranoid does not mean the Supervisor isn't around the corner.**
- 38. Just because someone's license date is before yours does not mean they know what they are doing.**