



IAFF Executive Board Policy

PulsePoint Verified Responder Program

PulsePoint Verified Responder is a mobile app designed to alert nearby off-duty professional responders to extremely time-sensitive medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest, obstructed airway, drowning, and overdose. The Verified Responder Program differs from the citizen version of the app known as PulsePoint Respond. The difference is that the Verified Responder app alerts responders to events at residential addresses in addition to public locations and potentially to a broader array of incident types. PulsePoint is only available where implemented by the local public safety agency which includes an integration with the associated Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

It is well established that the rapid response of trained individuals to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is critical to improving effective resuscitation and increasing the likelihood of survival and positive neurologic outcomes. Statistically significant improvements to cardiac arrest survival rates occur when CPR is performed prior to the arrival of traditional first responders. Early CPR also makes defibrillation more effective by increasing the proportion of individuals who are found with a shockable rhythm. Other time-sensitive medical conditions such as airway obstruction and inadequate breathing benefit in a similar fashion from early intervention.

The IAFF recognizes the important role that professional fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel have in their community – both on duty and off. Therefore, in departments that choose to implement PulsePoint Verified Responder, or other similar off-duty response programs, policy should be established to assure the following.

- Voluntary participation - Personnel should be authorized, but not required, to participate as a Verified Responder to provide medical care when off-duty.
- While responding to a PulsePoint Verified Responder alert, personnel should be covered by workers' compensation, other insurance protections, including all indemnity and defenses to which on-duty personnel are entitled, and any and all line of duty death benefits.

- Personnel providing emergency care while off-duty should be entitled to compensation as defined in the relevant collective bargaining agreement, including overtime, if applicable.
- Personnel should provide emergency care only in accordance with employment and medical protocols within the terms of their scope of practice.
- Personnel responding to a PulsePoint Verified Responder alert should transfer emergency care responsibility to the responding EMS/fire personnel/agency as soon as appropriate. Continued assistance may be performed in cooperation with the responding agency, if requested.
- Personnel should notify their agency as soon as practical after rendering off-duty assistance and document, at a minimum, the circumstances, care provided, and relevant times. Protected health information should be managed pursuant to relevant privacy and security provisions for safeguarding medical data.
- Personnel participating in the PulsePoint Verified Responder program should be issued personal protective equipment for infection control and when possible provided additional medical equipment such as an AED and bag valve mask (BVM).