



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN THE NFL

Every NFL club is required to write, practice, update and distribute to key stakeholders annually a **comprehensive Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** for all NFL training camp sites, practice facilities and game day venues.

- Emergency Action Plans are **reviewed by the NFL and NFLPA physician leaders** and after any needed feedback, **jointly approved** prior to each season.
- Club medical and training staffs are **required to rehearse the EAP** before the season begins. These rehearsals are required to be supervised by independent 3rd party vendors.
- All home teams **designate a Level I or Level II Trauma Center**, which is able to provide the highest level of trauma care with immediate availability to advanced imaging and surgeons who care for the most critically ill or injured patients.
- Home teams are **required to retain two EMT/paramedics** crews and advanced life support ambulances dedicated for player use at each game.



There are an average of **30 healthcare providers at each NFL game** ready to give immediate care to players on game day. These experts include:

- Team physicians
- Team athletic trainers
- Emergency Response Physicians
- EMTs/paramedics crew
- Airway Management Physicians
- Unaffiliated Neurotrauma Consultants
- Athletic trainer injury spotters

For the International Series Games, the same template of medical personnel and resources is provided to ensure player health and safety at these neutral site games.



One hour before kickoff, the medical staff from both clubs, unaffiliated medical staff, and referees gather for the "60 Minute Meeting." The meeting is an opportunity to review roles and responsibilities, identify stadium resources such as x-ray, transport carts, ambulance location and stadium exits, and confirm the Level I or Level II Trauma Center as well as other hospitals – as designated in the EAP – should any need arise.



Each NFL club must identify and retain at least two Emergency Response Physicians (ERPs) to be available to attend each of its home games. Each club must have at least one ERP present at every home game, who will be able to treat home and visiting team players.



All club athletic trainers and physicians are trained in how to recognize, respond to, and treat Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) in players, ensuring clubs are prepared to react quickly. The training ensures all staff know how to initiate CPR, use the automated external defibrillator (AED), and know where the device is located, along with providing a protocol for calling 911. This ensures the medical team can react quickly if a player exhibits signs of SCA and can initiate immediate treatment until EMS arrives.



Emergent conditions that can occur on gameday may include cardiac events, heat illness, solid organ injury with bleeding, as well as brain and spine injury. Clubs extensively rehearse the response to each of these scenarios, and always have the equipment and medical personnel to provide optimal on-site care for each condition.