



Washington State Department of Health
Guidance for Advanced First Aid (AFA) Equivalency
January 2017

Background

[RCW 18.73.150](#) Ambulance personnel requirements, states “The driver of the ambulance shall have at least a certification of advance first aid qualification recognized by the secretary pursuant to RCW 18.73.120.”

[RCW 18.73.120](#) Certificate of advanced first aid qualification states “The secretary shall recognize a current certificate of advanced first aid qualification for those who provide proof of advanced Red Cross training or its equivalent.”

[RCW 18.73.170](#) Aid vehicles – Personnel – use, states “The aid vehicle shall be operated in accordance with standards promulgated by the secretary, by at least one person holding a certificate recognized under RCW 18.73.120.”

The Red Cross advanced first aid qualification is no longer supported or available. The Department of Health (department) is providing this guidance document to identify approved equivalencies to the AFA requirement.

AFA was developed in 1973. The course consisted of 26 chapters. It was estimated that it would take two hours to instruct and practice the content and skills per chapter. The chapters included:

1. Introduction
2. Respiratory including mouth to mouth ventilation
3. Open wounds (direct pressure, tourniquets)
4. Test topics 1-3
5. Poisoning (types including inhaled, contact, marine life, insects and snakes)
6. Head injuries (eye, head, neck, and bandaging)
7. Trunk injuries
8. Extremity injuries
9. Test topics 5-8
10. Drowning, water accidents, and resuscitation
11. Dressings, bandages and drugs of abuse
12. Burns, heat and cold emergencies
13. Bone and joint injuries
14. Upper body fractures
15. Hip and thigh fractures
16. Lower extremity fractures
17. Dislocations, sprains, and strains
18. Sudden illness (fainting, stroke, heart attack, diabetic issues, seizure, abdominal pain, bleeding, and pain)



19. Childbirth
20. Emergency rescue and transfer
21. Stretcher movement, backboards, and vehicle transfer
22. Extrication (removal from vehicle)
23. Extrication more patient movement
24. Test
25. Review for final; and
26. Final test

Recommendations

A gap analysis was developed to identify the differences between advanced first aid courses offered by the original Red Cross Advanced First Aid course and American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI) and National Safety Council (NSC)

Equivalency to Red Cross AFA can be met by completion of one of the following three requirements. Proof of additional basic level education or gap material must be taught by an instructor approved by local MDP. Personnel must maintain a current certification.

1. Personnel complete an ASHI or NSC AFA course and are provided the gap material, identified in the gap analysis in addition to the AFA course curricula.
 - a. Gap material includes:
 - i. Drowning, water accidents, and resuscitation
 - ii. Drugs of abuse and first aid treatments
 - iii. Patient movement, equipment for patient movement and extrication
2. Personnel have proof of successful completion of:
 - a. First aid class
 - b. Health care professional-level CPR course
 - c. Gap material includes:
 - i. Childbirth
 - ii. Patient movement, equipment for patient movement and extrication
3. Personnel are certified as emergency medical responders.