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911 Claims Operators Don't Need to Know CPR

A Shocking Revelation by the *Today Show* Reveals 18 State Behind the Curve

By Ryan Christopher DeVault

The 911 system in this country is broken, and the *Today Show* showed us just how broken it is. In a *Today Show* investigation of the 911 system, it was revealed that 18 states around the country do not require that their operators know CPR to be on the job. It seems that one of the reasons that the story was being done in the first place was that a city manager in Murphy, Texas said that his operators didn't know CPR because they weren't required to know it. Does this sound like a good excuse? Or does it sound like laziness where the city could be putting its residents at risk by not actually taking on training that could save lives?

Let's all just agree that knowing CPR is an important tool and that when someone takes the initiative to actually learn CPR that they are working towards the greater good. The fact is that nobody does CPR to help themselves out because obviously CPR is a tool you use to help out someone else in need. Those who go through the training to help save the lives of other people are commendable, and it creates more and more people that are capable of helping people with a medical emergency. With that in mind shouldn't anyone that could be placed in a position to use CPR go through the training simply because they can?

If you haven't learned CPR, and your child is suddenly having trouble breathing, who do you call? We are all told that you should call 911 immediately, but what are you expecting when you call 911? As a parent I would hope for immediate help with the situation, but there are 18 states (listed on page 2) around the country that don't care enough to make sure that the callers can receive help from their operators. I am of the opinion that it is important for parents to learn CPR, but if they haven't had the money to pay for the training, what are their options in those 18 states where you can't rely on 911 to help you out? I wish I had the answer to that question.

The reason that the city of Murphy, Texas is being brought up in this article is that they had a woman whose child had stopped breathing call into their 911 dispatch to receive help with CPR. The operator couldn't help, and the excuse that the city is giving is that they aren't required to know how to do CPR in Texas, and that they did nothing wrong. Maybe they learned their lesson in Murphy though, because the claim by the city manager of Murphy (to the *Today Show*) is they are now going to train their operators. It won't bring back the child that died in the sad case, but maybe it can be a warning sign for residents to take up the cause in their states for 911 operators to be required to know CPR. Unless you can answer for me the following question, "who do I call for help with CPR while in the middle of trying to save a life?"

States that DON'T require CPR Training for 911 Operators

Idaho
Nevada
Colorado
South Dakota
Nebraska
Kansas
Oklahoma
Wisconsin
Michigan
Indiana
Arkansas
Mississippi
Alabama
Florida
New York
West Virginia
Alaska
Hawaii

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