

ABCs of Increasing Safety for Police and Rescue

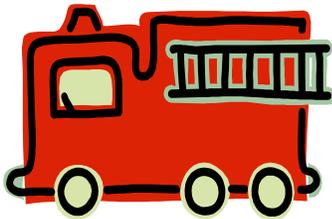


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How would you feel if there was an emergency at your home: stressed, upset, and panicking to some degree? However, you can rationalize and understand an emergency. Similarly, Rover will be stressed and upset, however, he does not comprehend what is happening like we do. Now add the presence of strangers in the home (police, rescuers, EMTs), fast movements, equipment being brought in, maybe even family yelling and fighting. Imagine what is happening to Rover. Stressed dogs are more likely to react in ways we do not want. What could happen if a rescuer cannot get to your loved one or an officer feel someone is at risk because of your dog? Safety for emergency personnel begins with you!

Owners can reduce risk to the dogs and humans by following the ABCs.



A - Alert dispatch to a dog in your home.

B - Before police or emergency crews arrive, get your dog to a safe, secure place where he cannot escape.

C - Call someone to get your dog if needed.

Lessons must be practiced for the life of a dog. After you learn the lessons, practice and refresh or your dog will forget. Develop a protocol that will be followed in case emergency crews must be called to your home. Once the dog is solid with the lesson, begin training in a slightly stressed tone but make it fun for Rover. If Rover learns that a stressed tone means good things when he follows protocol, he will be more likely to follow when really needed. Finally, never let your dog roam loose. What if he decides to visit the emergency down the lane and interferes?



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