

FIRST RESPONDERS



Epilepsy affects over 3 million Americans.

What is epilepsy??

Epilepsy is a neurological condition. A seizure is a symptom of epilepsy. A diagnosis of epilepsy is generally given after a person experiences two or more unprovoked seizures.

Known causes of epilepsy include head injuries, stroke, brain tumors, poisoning, problems in brain development before birth, and serious infections such as encephalitis or meningitis. However, more than half the time, the cause of epilepsy is unknown.

The Epilepsy Foundation has a network of affiliates nationwide that provide services in their local communities. To locate an affiliate in your area, call us toll-free or visit our website's home page and type in your zip code under 'community connections.'

For more info contact:

Program Objectives

The Epilepsy Foundation recognizes the growing need to arm First Responders with the information they need to recognize and respond appropriately to calls related to epileptic seizures.

The ***First Responders Program** focuses primarily on Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. The key objectives of the **Law Enforcement Training** curriculum are to:

- increase officer's awareness and understanding of the nature, causes and effects of seizure disorders;
- improve the officer's decision-making response to seizures and people with epilepsy;
- delineate and clarify the officer's role when handling calls concerning seizures;
- provide the officer easy-reference information and tools necessary to react.

The Foundation has recently launched a second component of the First Responders Program that targets **Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** personnel. The goal of this pilot program is to provide emergency response personnel with the information and training crucial to an effective medical response to seizures. This pilot program tests a curriculum that consists of a Trainer's Guide with DVD and a Participant's Guide. (Note: EMS materials will be available to order in the fall of 2010.)

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Available Resources

- **Law Enforcement Training Guide** that includes: symptoms and causes of epilepsy; current epilepsy medications; connection between seizures, law enforcement officers, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and an on-the-scene checklist. To order the *Guide* online, visit: www.epilepsyfoundation.org/marketplace.
- **It Could Be Epilepsy: A Field Guide for Law Enforcement DVD**
The purpose of this DVD is to assist law enforcement personnel on appropriate seizure recognition and response.
- To view the video or for more information about the Law Enforcement training: www.epilepsyfoundation.org/firstresponders