

In the Diabetes Trenches: Diabetes Dad

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First Responders May Need You To Teach Them

In some communities, they volunteer. In some communities, they are a paid team. In most cases, the fire department and ambulance service in your area are usually very well-trained to handle any emergency that comes along.

These brave souls come out during different hours of the day and night and run toward the very things that scare us and make us run away. They are brave. They are incredible people for doing this kind of thing.

Two of my three children are first responders. I'm in awe of what they do, and I have come to know and love many of their colleagues/friends-in-arms.

What does that have to do with diabetes? On the surface? Nothing. But I want to suggest something to you: Each one of these departments have a Chief. They are always looking for good and different means of training for their responders. Don't be afraid to reach out and ask them if you can come in with your child and give a lecture on what happens when dealing with diabetes. It could be training that they may not be so inclined to receive.

Even if dealing with a fire company, extractions out of a car may show someone wearing an insulin pump or a CGM device; anyone can learn from this, not just ambulance staff. Offer to come in and have a quick lesson on what this "diabetes thing" is all about and bring your child so they can see the "face of diabetes."

We always talk about ways of educating; give this a try and let us know what happens. You might need to send a letter first to the Chief, but it's surely worth a try. Be warm and inviting and you can provide a valuable service—not just for your child, but also for others in your fire/rescue district as well.

When that bell rings, first responders are in automatic mode. Give them the knowledge and tools to know what to do when they come across someone with diabetes. Oh yeah, you just might save someone's life as well.

I am a diabetes dad.