

# FACTSHEET

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## GROUND AMBULANCE FLEET

- The BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) ground fleet is designed to support paramedics in providing patient care on the scene of an emergency and during transport to hospital in a multitude of terrains and conditions throughout the province.
- In 2019/2020, BCEHS ambulances travelled over 25 million kilometers – equivalent to 628 trips around the world.
- In 2019/2020, BCEHS dispatched ambulances to over 780,000 medical emergency events:
  - 774,027 ground ambulances dispatched; and
  - 7,375 air ambulances dispatched.
- A total of 81,457 inter-facility patient transfers were also completed.

### Fleet Vehicles

- BCEHS' ground fleet features approximately 800 vehicles (590 ambulances, 189 support vehicles).
- The BCEHS fleet includes specialized vehicles for emergency patient care such as:
  - Two bariatric ambulances equipped with hydraulic stretchers capable of lifting approximately 1,000 lbs;
  - Nine 4x4 ambulances used in rural areas with rugged terrain and severe weather conditions; and
  - A fleet of bicycles utilized by bike squad paramedics in several communities around BC, including a permanent bike squad at Vancouver International Airport.

### Fleet Details

- BCEHS ambulances are currently manufactured by Crestline Coach Ltd., based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Most ambulances are based on Chevrolet platforms.
- The newest model of Crestline ambulances was designed by a committee with input from BCEHS paramedics.
- About half of the BCEHS ambulance fleet is equipped with anti-idling technology. This technology reduces idling by up to 40 per cent by monitoring the battery condition and interior temperature and shutting down or restarting the engine as needed.
- BCEHS deployed the first of its hybrid ambulances in July 2018, with nine more hybrid vehicles introduced in 2020.

### Fleet Renewal

- Annually, about 60-70 new ambulances are brought into service and a similar number are refurbished.
- After being in service for four or five years, BCEHS' refurbished ambulances are reallocated to stations with lower call volume in order to increase their useful lifespan.
- BCEHS has a general target of 350,000 kilometres for the average lifecycle of its ambulances. Ambulances are decommissioned after reaching this mileage, usually about seven to eight years of service.
- Some decommissioned ambulances are repurposed as support vehicles or training vehicles.

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