

north shore news

Ambulance resources wasted on waiting

John Hunter / North Shore News

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North Vancouver - Dear Editor: A few weeks ago you published some material regarding the problems with slow ambulance service. I think I can identify part of the problem.

A few years ago I had to take an ambulance to Lion's Gate due to back spasms. I was in unbelievable pain and could not walk or even roll out of bed - I had to be taken out on a stretcher.

Once in hospital waiting for treatment, the ambulance crew had to stay with me until I was looked after. I'd guess they were tied up for an hour. Sure, I was in severe pain, but at no serious risk. Why could a triage nurse not see me, determine that I was not going to die on them, and release the ambulance for people who could be at serious risk?

I do not know how often this happens, but it struck me as a real waste of resources.

John Hunter

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