

Statens vegvesen 

Perspective from Norway

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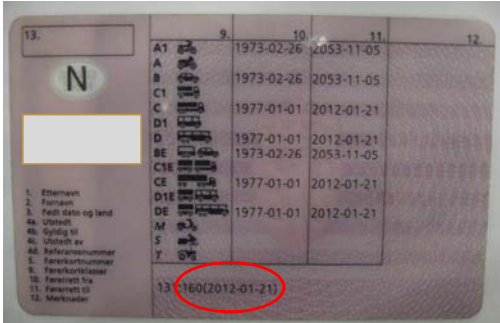
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The Norwegian ambulance service

- Part of the specialist health service
- A public service
- A mix between public operated services and contractors
- Minimum competence: EMT (4 years education)
- In cities / bigger services, Paramedic on emergency ambulances (EMT + 2 year practice + 1 ½ (2 ½) year at a university college)
- All crew need a special driver licence
- A tradition to use smaller vehicles than USA and UK.

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Driver licence



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Principles when purchasing ambulances




- Must fulfill all laws and regulations
- EN 1789 standard as a minimum
- Special requirements from our service:
 - Better internal lights (White halogen)
 - Reduced noise level (65dB A at 60 km/t and 70dB A at 120 km/t)
 - Focus on securing people and equipment
 - Focus on hygiene / easy to keep clean
- The attendant should reach all basic equipment, communication, light and climate controls without releasing the safety belt.


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Basic layout MB Sprinter ambulance



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Basic layout MB Sprinter ambulance



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Basic layout Volvo V70 AWD ambulance



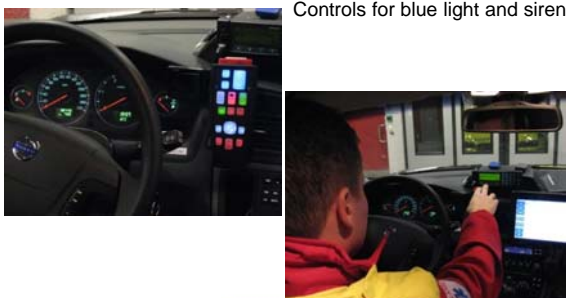
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Basic layout Volvo V70 AWD ambulance



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Safety On Board



Controls for blue light and siren

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 *"Together for your safety"* 

Ambulance Investigation - Norway





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National analysis group

- National Health Authority
Licensing health professionals
- National Vehicle & Roads Administration
Approval and technical control of ambulances
- Paramedics from Oslo university hospital


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Ambulance investigation

- Accidents involving an ambulance with injury or death
- Accidents involving an ambulance with major damage to property
- Accidents where equipment inside the ambulance cause injury / danger of injury


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National analysis group

- Started January 2009
- 8 accidents has been investigated

Findings:

- Overload problems
 - axel failure
 - Tire and rims failure
- Inadequate securing of the patient and equipment
- Driver error


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After an accident




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Not good!




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Not good 2




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A good solution




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A good solution 2



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"Together for your safety"



Summary

- Safety of the patient and the crew are an important issue
- The use of shoulder straps on a stretcher are mandatory (unless a medical reason)
- The national analysis group can implement reactions against employees and suppliers.
- Can we improve? Yes We Can! (and will)

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Thank you

Questions?

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