For major health issues, choose an ambulance

Run time - :34

LEDE: For minor bumps and bruises, driving yourself to urgent care is appropriate. But for major issues like a suspected heart attack or stroke, doctors are shouting from the rooftops: an ambulance is your best way to survive. Tim Ditman of OSF HealthCare has more.

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OSF Doctor Kurt Bloomstrand has heard it all. By the time the ambulance gets to me, I'll be worse off. I can't afford an ambulance. I'm not sick enough for one. I'm scared of them.

The reality:

SOUNDBITE: "Ambulances and pre-hospital providers are equipped and trained to deal with these emergencies. We can deal with these emergencies at your home or wherever you called 9-1-1 at. We're bringing the equipment from the ED to you so we can get that treatment started even sooner and bring you life-saving treatment and medication immediately."

I'm Tim Ditman.

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TAG: Doctor Bloomstrand adds that if you're fighting a major medical issue while driving, you may crash. Private vehicles also can not legally run stop signs and red lights like ambulances can.