



Hazard Area Response Team (HART)





WHAT IS THE HART?

HART stands for Hazard Area Response Team. The HART is a specialized ambulance team from Ambulance Amsterdam who operate the field of CBRNe. This involves incidents with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear substances or explosives. The HART primarily operates in the hot zone, where initial life-saving actions take place.

The HART was established in 2014 when the Ebola epidemic posed a threat. During this period, it became evident that an ambulance service handling CBRNe incidents required specialized attention. As a result, Ambulance Amsterdam established the specialized HART at the Hoofddorp post. The personnel at this ambulance station, located near the airport, focused on Ebola transport and gained expertise in this field.

To maintain this knowledge and experience, after the Ebola threat subsided, it was decided to transform this team into a group of experts.

FOR WHICH INCIDENTS DO WE USE THE HART?

The HART is deployed in two situations:

- CBRNe accidents
- Transportation of patients who (potentially) suffer from a dangerous infectious disease (Category A) requiring strict isolation

The HART is specifically trained and equipped to protect themselves from harmful external influences, using various personal protective equipment.

CBRNe accidents

During a CBRNe deployment, the HART closely collaborates with various partners such as the LTFO (Local Task Force Officer), fire department, police, defense, and RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment). In the hot zone, where cooperation with the fire department takes place, the HART takes care of the victims.

In this zone, we initiate initial life-saving actions to provide structured patient care for decontamination (the disinfection of patients) in the warm zone.

We also have our own decontamination facility where we disinfect and treat patients.

Category A diseases

The HART specializes in transporting and accompanying patients falling under Category A diseases. However, it is not intended to transport patients using the HART vehicle. Instead, a specially prepared regular ambulance is used for this.

The HART personnel, dressed in PPE, then provide transportation. The ambulance used and the clothing worn are cleaned according to existing procedures after the patient has been transported.

Over the past years, the HART has been deployed multiple times for such transports, both nationally and internationally.



We can transport an infectious patient using an ISO-POD, which is a type of cocoon in which we can perform limited treatments. The ISO-POD draws in ambient air through two particle filters. This purified air is then drawn over the patient, providing a cooling effect. The negative pressure prevents the escape of contaminants that could affect the medical personnel. The air is subsequently drawn through a filter cartridge, where it is filtered for particles, organic vapors, and acidic gases.



SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

The twenty ambulance staff of the HART team practice every six weeks to ensure smooth execution of complex procedures. During these training sessions, we work closely with partners such as the LTFO, fire department, defense, RIVM, and police. Collaboration within the CBRNe spectrum is crucial to excel in this specialized care.

Additionally, a Medical Manager Ambulance Care (MMA) from the ambulance region Kennemerland has been designated as a special supporter of the team.

ALERTING

The HART is available for deployment 24/7. Requests for deployment are made through the Noord-Holland Emergency Control Room.

The HART team members are on standby and have a response time of 30-45 minutes.

Due to its specialized knowledge and experience, various safety regions utilize the HART team when incidents occur within their respective regions that fall under the deployment indications of the HART.

During a HART deployment, six individuals are called upon. One person serves as the team leader (Lima). There are two caregivers in the hot zone and two caregivers in the warm zone. The sixth member fulfills the role of cleaner/circulator (Oscar).



THE VEHICLE

The vehicle used by the team is a specially modified Ford Transit. The vehicle has been extended up to seven meters in length and features dual air suspension.

On the side of the vehicle, there is a retractable canopy. Inside, there are four seats and a dressing room.

The vehicle provides space for all necessary protective clothing, ambulance equipment, and a rapidly inflatable decontamination tent.

Additionally, the vehicle has its own hot water supply with a tank capacity of 100 liters, allowing for immediate independent initiation of the decontamination process.



The decontamination tent

The decontamination tent includes an inflatable reservoir to collect the wastewater and six “quick connect” shower connectors for disinfecting patients.

Additionally, the decontamination tent contains all the necessary materials, similar to the rear compartment of an ALS ambulance.



DEPLOYMENT IN OTHER REGIONS

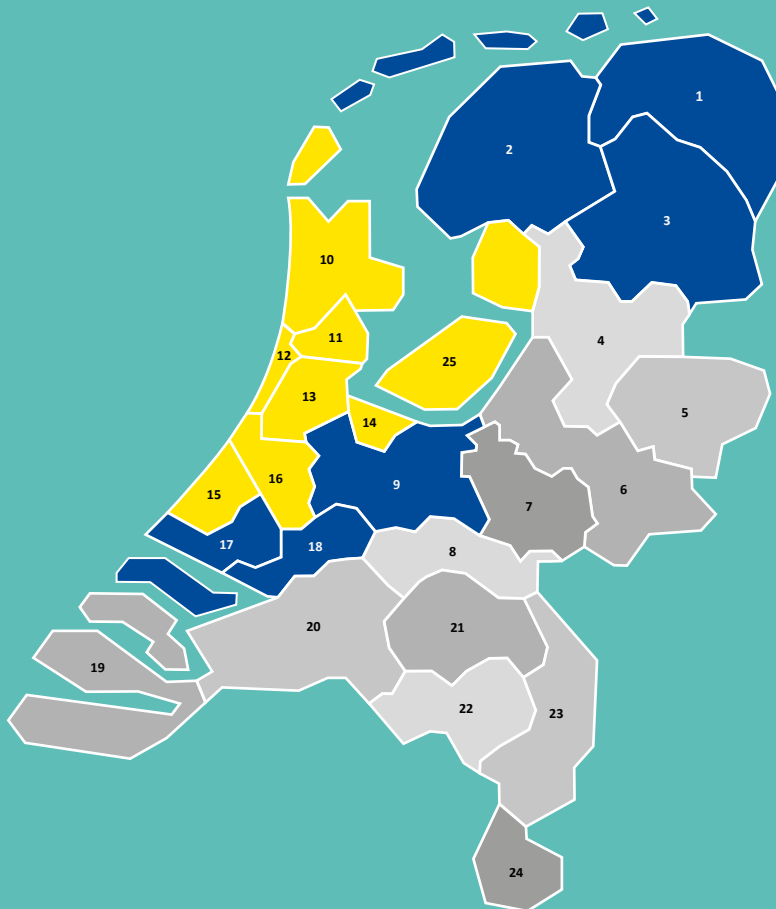
Ambulance Amsterdam has a collaboration agreements with other Regional Ambulance Services in the Netherlands for the extensive deployment of the HART.

Regions

1. Groningen
2. Friesland
3. Drenthe
4. IJsselland
5. Twente
6. Noord- and Oost Gelderland
7. Gelderland midden
8. Gelderland zuid
9. Utrecht
10. Noord-Holland-Noord
11. Zaanstreek-Waterland
12. Kennemerland
13. Amsterdam-Amstelland
14. Gooi and Vechtstreek
15. Haaglanden
16. Hollands Midden
17. Rotterdam-Rijmond
18. Zuid-Holland-Zuid
19. Zeeland
20. Midden and West-Brabant
21. Brabant-Noord
22. Brabant-Zuidoost
23. Limburg-Noord
24. Zuid-Limburg
25. Flevoland

HART Area's

Yellow: Cat. A diseases & Incident response for hazardous substances
Blue: Cat. A diseases



MORE INFO?

If you have any questions regarding the deployment of the HART, please feel free to contact us.



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LOCATION HART

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Ambulance Amsterdam
zorg met hoofd en hart