ADVANCES MADE — Advances have been made in the field of Emergency Medical Service since Acadian Ambulance started 10 years ago. Today, considerably faster, more effective medic services stabilize the emergency patient at the accident scene and communicate with the hospital emergency rooms to prepare them for the arrival of the trauma victim.

How to call Acadian Ambulance

Acadian Ambulance Service officials say the giving of proper directions, particularly in out-of-the-way rural areas, is one of the most important things you can do when accident or sudden illness strikes at your home. Knowledge of highway numbers and clear instructions on how the ambulance can best reach the scene can literally make the difference between life and death.

While all of us hope we will never need an ambulance, the odds are in favor of it making it essential that we be prepared for the eventuality. AASI officers urge that you practice giving directions while traveling to and from your home. Note highway numbers that can identify roads. Catalogue in your mind the landmarks which would serve to guide the ambulance to your front door. Quickly recall of these markers could save a life.

Other precautions include having the toll-free Acadian Ambulance Service telephone number readily available. Acadian Ambulance Service is utilizing a service being offered by the phone company called Direct Inward Dialing (D.I.D.). Residents living within 48 miles of Lafayette dial a seven digit toll free number to access an ambulance (361-1511), within the operation. This system removes business phone traffic out of the dispatch center to other areas of the operation and lets the dispatchers strictly handle ambulance calls.

Considerable medic staff are available and while you are unable to reach the emergency number immediately, dial the operator and ask for Acadian Ambulance Service. The operator will connect you to the Emergency Medical Dispatch Center, and an ambulance will be on the way immediately. AASI spokesman recommends that you never assume someone else has already called. This could cause a serious delay. It is better to relay several calling pertaining to the same emergency than to receive one at all.

It is essential that you advise the dispatcher of all details, nature of the accident or injury. He needs this information to let the ambulance crew know what to expect when it arrives. Then, the necessary medic equipment, such as portable oxygen tanks, air splints, etc., can be taken down from the ambulance at once. The dispatch center will also contact law enforcement agencies when necessary.

The next information needed is the street address of the accident. If it is in a rural area, the specific directions mentioned earlier. It is best to spell out the street name, since there may be others which sound similar. Give the nearest intersecting street if possible. Having your house number or mailbox number clearly

posted and visible from the road always makes the residence easier to locate.

Sometimes, in the excitement of the moment, a caller will give directions in reverse—from his home to the ambulance station. Practicing directions in advance can prevent this error. It is also helpful in keeping the caller from drawing a blank when he tries to give directions.

If the scene is particularly hard to find, a name on the mailbox or the color of a car in the driveway is helpful.

The dispatcher will ask for your name and phone number. This will allow him to call back if closer directions are needed. Some people think that if they identify themselves they will be charged for the call. This is not true. Also, calling for identification helps to eliminate prank calls.

It is a difficult thing when someone you know is sick and injured, but it is essential that you remain calm. This not only assures quick arrival of the ambulance, but also reassures the patient.