

Wikipedia says

- An ambulance is a vehicle for transportation of sick or injured people to, from or between places of treatment for an illness or injury.
- The term ambulance comes from the Latin word ambulare, meaning to walk or move about which is a reference to early medical care where patients were moved by lifting or wheeling.
- The history of ambulances begins in ancient times, with the use of carts to transport incurable patients by force.
- Ambulances were first used for emergency transports in 1487 by the Spanish army, although wounded soldiers were not picked up for treatment until after the battle was over, resulting in many dying in the field.

- Napoleon Bonaparte's chief physician developed a four-wheeled horse drawn wagon to transport wounded soldiers in 1793. He also developed a litter to be carried by a camel for a war in Egypt.
- Civilian ambulance started to provide a transport carriage for cholera patients in London in 1832.
- During the U.S. Civil War, Dr. Joseph Barnes and Dr. Johnathon Letterman designed a prehospital care system for soldiers, which used new techniques and methods of transport. They ensured every regiment had at least one two-wheeled cart capable of transporting two or three patients at a time.
- The Civil War carts were too lightweight and were replaced by four-wheeled wagons called the "Rucker" ambulance, named after Major General Rucker.

- 1865 – Commercial Hospital in Cincinnati, OH began the first hospital based ambulance service
- 1869 – Bellevue Hospital in New York City began its ambulance service and had 1,401 calls in 1870. Their call volume increased to 4,392 by 1890.
- 1869 – The Bellevue Hospital ambulance paid crew was salaried at \$50 per month for daily twelve hours shifts, and one day off every four weeks.
- Late 1800's – St. Louis, MO started using trolley cars to act as ambulances to transport the sick and injured.
- 1890's – Automobile ambulances were developed and were powered by steam, gasoline or electricity.

- 1899 – Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, IL placed the first motor powered ambulance into service followed in 1900 by New York City. Both of these ambulances were electrically powered by 2HP (1.5kW) motors on the rear axle.
- 1905 – The first gasoline powered ambulance was the Palliser Ambulance which had three wheels (one at the front, and two at the rear) and was designed for use on the battlefield (under enemy fire) by the Canadian Militia.
- 1909 – The first mass produced automobile based ambulances were made by the James Cunningham, Son & Company in the U.S. They used a 32HP, 4 cylinder internal combustion engine.
- 1914-1918 – The Red Cross began using motor ambulances in war zones
- 1914-1918 – Traction splints were introduced for leg fractures

- Shortly after WWI – Two-way radios were introduced to enable more efficient dispatching of ambulances
- 1928 – Custom built air ambulances were placed into service, with Australia taking the lead
- 1930's – Since the ambulance was the only motorized vehicle capable of carrying a patient in a supine position, they were frequently used as hearses. Funeral directors were able to provide multiple services with one vehicle.