

NEWS RELEASE

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North Metro Fire Receives Nearly \$300,000 in Grants for 2016

Northglenn/Broomfield, CO—North Metro Fire Rescue District has been awarded \$272,853 in funding for 2016 through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Emergency Medical and Trauma System (CDPHE-EMTS) Grant. The grant, along with matching funds from the District and state, will be used to purchase advanced medical equipment that will enhance patient care and safety.

Improving CPR delivery

According to the American Heart Association, more than 326,000 Americans experience cardiac arrests outside of the hospital each year, and only 10 percent of those victims survive. Recent reports by the Journal of Emergency Medical Services have shown that quality, uninterrupted cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is an important factor that can increase a patient's chance of survival.

To improve the delivery of CPR to patients, North Metro Fire will use part of its grant funding to purchase mechanical CPR devices this year. These devices can be attached to a patient in cardiac arrest and deliver consistent compressions at the correct depth and rate without interruption.

“Our paramedics and EMTs are well trained and qualified to deliver effective CPR,” said North Metro Fire EMS Captain Ross Riley. “However, CPR compressions are often interrupted when patients are being moved from one floor to another or in and out of an ambulance, not to mention the difficulty and danger of delivering high quality CPR to a patient in the back of a moving ambulance. These devices will be able to provide a better consistency of chest compressions for our patients and potentially have a positive impact on outcomes.”

Lightening the load

The other portion of the grant money will be used to purchase Stryker Power-LOAD systems. The new systems, mounted in each ambulance are electrically powered and hold the weight of the patient and the pram while loading and unloading a patient.

“Our firefighters keep themselves in top physical condition,” said Riley. “But the vast amount of calls they respond to require lifting patients from unusual positions plus transporting them up and down stairs and in and out of ambulances, and all of that can take a toll on their bodies over time.”

According to the International Association of Fire Fighters' annual “Death and Injury Survey,” sprains and strains routinely account for approximately 50 percent of all line-of-duty injuries, and back injuries

account for approximately 50 percent of all line-of-duty injury retirements each year. These injuries may result in significant lost time and medical expenses for firefighters and fire districts.

With overweight and obesity trends rising within the United States, firefighters have a bigger challenge and risk for injury to themselves and the patient when lifting patients. The power-load systems make loading and unloading safer and more comfortable for the patient while helping minimize the physical strain on the firefighters.

Collaborating to save money

Prior to submitting the grant proposal, North Metro Fire collaborated with other Colorado agencies to submit a multiagency request for equipment through the CDPHE-EMTS grant process. Each agency was able to save a significant amount of money as a result of the large quantity of equipment ordered and negotiated prices.

The Power-Load systems will be a new addition into each of the fire district's ambulances and will work in conjunction with the powered prams purchased through the grant process in 2015. The mechanical CPR devices are currently going through a testing and evaluation process before the District selects a vendor.

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North Metro Fire Rescue District

North Metro Fire Rescue District is dedicated to providing quality service to its residents. North Metro Fire Rescue provides fire protection, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and rescue services to our community. Formed in 1946, the District now covers 63 square miles with a population of approximately 111,000 people including the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Northglenn and unincorporated areas of Adams, Boulder, Jefferson and Weld Counties.