



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Medic Ambulance, Fairfield Fire Department, NorthBay Healthcare deploy automated CPR devices

Fairfield, California (Wednesday, March 13, 2019) - Your chance of surviving a heart attack in Fairfield just got a lot better.

Every first-responder unit arriving at a medical emergency in Fairfield will be equipped with new state-of-the-art CPR devices, thanks to a new partnership of Medic Ambulance Service, Fairfield Fire Department and NorthBay Healthcare.

The ambulance service and the local health system purchased automated CPR devices, the LUCAS 3 v3.1 chest compression system, for each first-out Fire Department apparatus and two Medic Ambulance supervisor vehicles. The LUCAS device performs hands-free, continuous chest compressions, increasing the probability of a good outcome for the patient and reducing the burden and risk for first-responders.

With the LUCAS device in action, fire, ambulance and hospital personnel can concentrate on patient care and life-saving intervention for those in cardiac arrest, while ensuring high-quality CPR is being administered.

According to the American Heart Association, sudden cardiac arrest affects nearly 500,000 people each year. But only a fraction of those patients leaves a hospital alive. Despite other advances in emergency medicine, early access to high-quality CPR and defibrillation is what most enhances cardiac arrest survival rates.

In recent years, survival numbers have increased as more lay persons are trained in CPR, as well as the prevalence of public automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Because manual CPR is physically demanding, making it difficult to provide the consistent, precise compressions, the chances of survival are often diminished. Additionally, manual CPR creates inherent risks for paramedics when transporting patients in the ambulance, as they are unable to effectively perform CPR while remaining safely secured in a seat.

LUCAS devices can eliminate the challenges posed by manual CPR by providing mechanical chest compressions at a rate and depth consistent with current American Heart Association guidelines. Portable and quick to apply, LUCAS devices are critical to maintaining blood flow in a cardiac arrest patient's vital organs. In addition, the device collects performance data during each event, which can then be reviewed as part of the medical quality assurance process.

Heather Venezia, Director of Emergency and Trauma Services at NorthBay Healthcare, explained, "In the controlled environment of a hospital we can correct underlying medical problems that caused a patient's heart to stop. However, these measures are only effective if the patient arrives with viable conditions. High-performance CPR with the LUCAS device has made a drastic difference in the survivability of patients."

She added, “The collaboration between Medic Ambulance, Fairfield Fire Department and NorthBay Healthcare, and the investment each has made, will save many lives in the future.”

Led by the medical quality teams from Medic Ambulance, Fairfield Fire Department and NorthBay Healthcare, collaboration on the project began two years ago. Medic Ambulance and the Fire Department each contributed more than \$70,000, while NorthBay Healthcare added \$40,000 to support the initiative.

“An alliance like this is a tremendous benefit to our community and it greatly enhances the quality of emergency care provided to local residents,” said James Pierson, President and COO for Medic Ambulance.

Fairfield Fire Chief Anthony Velasquez added, “Success of this program can be attributed to the positive working relationship of our three organizations. We look forward to further opportunities to collaborate and enhance patient care in this community.”

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****Media Advisory****

The City of Fairfield Fire Department, Medic Ambulance Service, and NorthBay Healthcare invite you to Fire Station #37, 1200 Kentucky St, Fairfield, at 2 p.m. on March 19 for a demonstration. Representatives will be on hand from the agencies to educate and answer any questions related to the program.

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