



August 19, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #104

SUBJECT: Brea Fire Department Receives American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Silver Plus Recognition Award

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BREA, Calif. – The Brea Fire Department has received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Silver Plus Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

Every year, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) the deadliest type of heart attack caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

The Mission: Lifeline initiative provides tools, training and other resources to support heart attack care following protocols from the most recent evidence-based treatment guidelines. Mission: Lifeline's EMS recognition program recognizes emergency medical services for their efforts in improving systems of care to rapidly identify suspected heart attack patients, promptly notify the medical center and trigger an early response from the awaiting hospital personnel.

“The Brea Fire Department is dedicated to providing optimal care for heart attack patients,” said Brea Fire Chief Adam Loeser. “We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in emergency medical care efforts through Mission: Lifeline.”

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“EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those who have heart attacks,” said Tim Henry, M.D., Chair of the Mission: Lifeline Acute Coronary Syndrome Subcommittee. “Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can save precious minutes of treatment time by activating the emergency response system that alerts hospitals to an incoming heart attack patient. We applaud the Brea Fire Department for achieving this award in following evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of people who have severe heart attacks.”

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About Brea Fire Department

The primary mission of the Brea Fire Department is the delivery of life safety services. The department provides 24-hour emergency response to a wide variety of critical situations, including fires, explosions, hazardous materials incidents, medical emergencies, accidents, and miscellaneous public assistance requests. In addition, the department operates a very active Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness Program, which provides for fire inspections, hazardous process permitting, fire code enforcement, public education, and business emergency planning in accordance with California Code of Regulations.

Brea Fire operates under a Consolidated Command Staff which is comprised of an EMS Manager, three Battalion Chiefs, two Division Chiefs, two Deputy Chiefs, and a Fire Chief who serve the municipalities of Brea and Fullerton. The Command Staff manages 10 fire stations covering 35 square miles with 125 personnel.

About Mission: Lifeline

The American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® program helps hospitals and emergency medical services develop systems of care that follow proven standards and procedures for acute coronary syndrome patients. The program works by mobilizing teams across the continuum of care to implement American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology clinical treatment guidelines. For more information, visit heart.org.