

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE RECEIVES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AWARD

SUFFOLK, VA (May 24, 2017) Suffolk Fire & Rescue Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was recognized with the 2017 Mission: Lifeline® – EMS Silver Achievement Award from the American Heart Association at the Virginia Heart Attack Coalition meeting in Lynchburg, VA on Friday, May 19, 2017. Captain Raymond Willet received the award, on behalf of the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department, from Dr. Peter O'Brien, Co-Founder of the Virginia Heart Attack Coalition.

The American Heart Association honored Suffolk Fire & Rescue for their continued success in using the Mission: Lifeline® EMS Program. The criteria for the SILVER award is as follows (aggregated annual score achieving a minimum of 75% compliance for each required measure):

- Percentage of patients with non-traumatic chest pain > 35 years old, treated and transported by EMS who received a pre-hospital 12 lead ECG

- Percentage of STEMI patients transported to a STEMI Receiving Center, with pre-hospital First Medical Contact (FMC) to Device (PCI) < 90 Minutes

(STEMI is a shorthand medical term for ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction. It is one type of heart attack that can be defined as a development of full thickness cardiac muscle damage resulting from an acute interruption of blood supply to a part of the heart and can be demonstrated by ECG (electrocardiography) change of ST-segment elevation.)

Mission: Lifeline® Emergency Medical System Recognition is the newest platform added to the Mission: Lifeline recognition program. It seeks to acknowledge the work, training and commitment by EMS agencies and Medical First Responders (MFRs) to improve the overall quality of care for the STEMI patient, by directly influencing the STEMI System of Care.

Emergency Medical System providers are vital to the overall success of Mission: Lifeline STEMI Systems of Care. EMS agencies with education in the assessment and early identification of the STEMI patient, early access to 12 lead ECG machines with implemented protocols derived from ACC/AHA STEMI Guidelines, are agents that are driving significant improvements in the care of STEMI patients. The correct tools and training allow pre-hospital providers to rapidly identify the STEMI, promptly notify the destination center and trigger an early response from the awaiting hospital personnel. Communication and collaboration among pre-hospital and hospital providers are the essence of Mission: Lifeline.

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