



Media Opportunity from
**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL
& RESCUE DISTRICT**

April 9, 2018

Contact: Nicole Hornberger
Public Education Coordinator
239-233-2856

Two awards to be presented at the Bonita Springs Fire Board Meeting-Monday, April 9th at 5PM

The United States Coast Guard will present the Meritorious Service Award to the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District for their continued partnership with USCG, their responsibility and devotion to the care of patients in our waterways, and the superior performance of duty. Executive Petty Officer Eric Risner from the Fort Myers Beach station will be at the meeting on Monday, April 6th to present the award.

Bystanders use CPR to save a life just months after being trained

On February 21, when the crew of Engine 27 responded to an emergency for a possible cardiac arrest at Bonita Beach Park, they arrived to find bystanders effectively saving the life of their patient. The 50 year old male was lying on the ground near the concession stand. The patient was not alert, not moving, and appeared pale with fixed pupils. He had AED pads already affixed, his groups of bystander-rescuers had administered one shock already, and CPR was in progress.

On-scene, Lieutenant Tom Harrison was in charge of the crew of firefighters. Lieutenant Harrison, a firefighter-paramedic himself, is also a CPR Instructor. In a moment, he realized the faces of the bystander-rescuers were familiar. Most of the bystander-rescuers were students in the last CPR class he taught. He trained them to provide effective CPR compressions and breathes and to administer the AED only months before this emergency. After this realization, Lieutenant Harrison was confident in the bystander care provided to the patient, and the transition of care from bystander to first-responder was seamless.

Like a well-practiced pit crew in Nascar, each firefighter-paramedic knew their role and performed it perfectly, without the need to utter a single word. Firefighter Nick Kemerer felt for a quick pulse, felt nothing, and took over CPR immediately. Firefighter Eric DelPozo and Lieutenant Harrison monitored the patient's oxygen levels and attached

the heart monitor to the AED pads already attached to the patient's bare skin. Battalion Chief Greg Harrel gained intravenous access with the use of an intraosseous vascular drill, called an EZIO, on the right tibia. The EZIO gave the firefighters the ability to inject life-saving medicines directly into the marrow of the patient's bone. This provided a non-collapsible entry point into the systemic venous system. This technique is used when intravenous access is not feasible. After drilling into the patient's tibia, and administering the necessary medicines, the patient's airway was maintained and vitals were re-assessed. His muscles began to twitch, audible noises including agonal respirations were heard, a weak pulse was felt, and return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) occurred. In his newly stable condition, the patient was rapidly loaded into the ambulance and Firefighter Kemerer rode with the paramedic and EMT from Lee County EMS to continue to support the patient on his way into the hospital.

The Bonita Springs Fire District has extended a heartfelt invitation for the award presentation to our patient and family with the hope of reuniting the bystander-rescuers, first responders, and patient again.

In order to recognize the dedication and skill of emergency responders, Bonita Springs Fire-Rescue adopted the Phoenix Award after implementing advanced life support services in March of 1999. The Phoenix is recognized as a symbol of excellence and also a mythical bird, said to rise again from its ashes.

Bonita Springs' firefighters and Lee County EMS will be recognized on:

WHEN: Monday, April 9th at 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Fire Station Four, 27701 Bonita Grande Drive

WHAT: The District's most prestigious honor – The Phoenix Award.

END