

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY June 9th 2014 NEWS from BONITA SPRINGS FIRE- RESCUE

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RESCUERS TO RECEIVE PHOENIX AWARD on June 9th 2014

Bonita Springs' firefighters will be recognized on June 9th at 5:00 p.m. at Fire Station Four, 27701 Bonita Grande Drive, with the District's most prestigious honor – The Phoenix Award.

Three crews of firefighters will be honored for saving the lives of Bonita Springs' residents.

The first award goes to firefighters on Truck 25 who responded to the aid of 70 year-old man, who suffered a cardiac arrest in his home. Lieutenant Andrew Schmidt and his crew arrived on scene, to find the patient lying supine on the couch; he was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Firefighters quickly moved him to the floor to begin CPR. Cyanosis, a blue purple discoloration of the skin was forming around the patient's head and neck due to lack of oxygen. The patient's heart rhythm was in V-fib and the defibrillator gave the heart multiple shocks throughout care. This was paired with administering several medications, which ultimately regained the patient's circulation before transporting him to the hospital.

His wife stated that her husband was complaining of a headache prior to the incident and that he had suffered a massive heart attack nearly two years earlier, a call that Lieutenant Andrew Schmidt vividly remembered as he was the Lieutenant who responded to this emergency as well.

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In less than two years, this will be Lt. Schmidt's second Phoenix award for saving the life of the same person. The Bonita Springs Fire District has extended a heartfelt invitation for the award presentation to the patient and his family with the hope of reuniting the firefighters and patient again. **The patient confirmed he will be in attendance.** The crew of firefighters awaiting their reunion includes: Lieutenant Andrew Schmidt, Firefighter Paramedic Michael Koshlap, Firefighter Paramedic Fredrick O' Donnell, and Firefighter Bruce Sheffield.

The second award goes to firefighters on Rescue 21 and Engine 21 who responded to the aid of a 31 year-old woman who had been released from the hospital days prior for Glutaric Acidemia, a disorder in which the body is unable to process certain proteins properly. The patient's boyfriend stated she did not feel well in the morning and when he came home to check on her, she was in the bathroom extremely ill. When firefighters arrived, she was semi-conscious with a regular pulse. The patient was pale, warm and struggled to speak. After taking the patient's vitals, she was loaded into the ambulance for transport, complaining of abdominal pain. Lee County EMS was asked if they needed a BSFD paramedic to ride in to the hospital and they declared they did not. Firefighters left for the fire station and while pulling back in saw the Lee County EMS ambulance drive past them with lights and sirens, indicating the patient was in distress. The ambulance now needed a BSFD paramedic and Battalion Chief Bradley Brown drove Firefighter Paramedic Thomas Harrison to the scene to assist. The patient had in fact gone into cardiac arrest, she was pulseless, and the patient was treated with the proper cardiac arrest protocol. Minutes later, Engine 21 was also toned out, as they arrived on scene they found that the Lee County EMS ambulance was stuck in the gravel near the intersection of Dean and Old 41. Another Lee County ambulance arrived shortly on scene and never interrupting care, Firefighter Paramedic Adam Hughes and Firefighter Philip Kinsey, III continued CPR even while the patient was moved from one ambulance to another. The patient would become conscious while CPR was being performed and when CPR stopped she would return back into cardiac arrest. CPR would then be started again and the patient would become conscious, only to go right back into cardiac arrest when stopped. This continued all the way to the hospital.

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The Bonita Springs Fire District has extended a heartfelt invitation for the award presentation to the patient and their family with the hope of reuniting the firefighters and patient again. The crew of firefighters awaiting their reunion includes: Lieutenant David Brewer, Firefighter Paramedic Adam Hughes, Firefighter Paramedic Thomas Harrison, Firefighter Philip Kinsey III, Lieutenant Cesar Sanchez and Firefighter Paramedic Michael Mendez.

The third award goes to firefighters on Rescue 21 who responded to the aid of a 52 year-old woman who collapsed in her kitchen. The patient's family had stated that the patient was cooking when they heard a loud crash. When the family members came to see what had fallen, they found the patient unresponsive on the kitchen floor. Firefighters arrived to find compressions being administered by a family member. CPR was taken over and the initial rhythm on the heart monitor showed the patient was in V-Fib. CPR was continued for two minutes. The patient was administered a total of three defibrillator shocks to the heart, and several other medications. The patient's heart was converted from V-Fib to a normal sinus heart rhythm. The patient had a pulse while en route to the hospital and was trying to breathe on her own.

The Bonita Springs Fire District has extended a heartfelt invitation for the award presentation to the patient and their family with the hope of reuniting the firefighters and patient again. The crew of firefighters awaiting their reunion includes: Lieutenant Cesar Sanchez and Firefighter Paramedic Michael Mendez.

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.

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