

MFPD First Responders Receive Life saving Awards from the East Central Regional EMS Committee for the 2nd Year in a Row!

The East Central Regional EMS Committee consists of stakeholders from a variety of EMS agencies, fire departments, hospitals, and physicians who by state law advise the Missouri EMS Advisory council on matters impacting EMS in Missouri.

Each year, the committee awards a select group of regional first responders an award for life saving treatment rendered on an emergency incident.

In 2021, MFPD Critical Care Paramedics and Firefighters were recognized for their life saving efforts on two cases. In each instance, crews provided exceptional, above and beyond resuscitative care to two patients suffering a heart attack. In one of the two cases, the same patient suffered a cardiac arrest and required CPR on two different occasions, just a few months apart. In both instances, the prompt, professional, well-coordinated, and evidence based medical care resulted in neurologically intact survival at the time of hospital discharge. That is, the patients were discharged from the hospital without any cognitive deficits.

In 2022, District Critical Care Paramedics were recognized once again for their high-quality medical care provided to a patient who suffered life threatening injuries after a motor vehicle accident. In this instance, the crew used point of care ultrasound to determine the presence of a beating heart in spite of being unable to feel a pulse. Thereafter, treatment decisions were tailored to meet this patient's complex needs. The patient was delivered to the hospital with vital signs and the lifesaving effort continued into the hospital's surgical ICU under the care of the trauma services team. Unfortunately, this patient did not have a positive neurologic prognosis due to the severe head injuries sustained in the motor vehicle collision. In consultation with the patient's family, the patient was able to donate organs, resulting in 4 lives being saved as a direct result of the gift of life, and the improvement in the lives of dozens of tissue recipients due to the patient's desire to be an organ donor.

The awards received by MFPD Critical Care Paramedics and Firefighters are an example of the District's commitment to Making a Difference in the lives of the residents and visitors of the Mehlville fire Protection District. The use of optimized cardiac arrest care and point of care ultrasound is unique for the St. Louis area, and patients receiving this treatment benefit from high quality pre-hospital medical care, resulting in lives saved when perhaps they otherwise could not have been.