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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Mehlville Fire Protection District Launches Groundbreaking Pre-Hospital Blood Transfusion Program for Enhanced Emergency Care**

St. Louis, MO - Mehlville Fire Protection District (MFPD) is proud to announce the debut of its Pre-Hospital Blood Transfusion Program, set to elevate emergency medical care in the region. This program will empower our Critical Care Paramedics (CCPs) and Critical Care Nurses (CCRN) to administer on-site blood transfusions during critical emergencies which was previously unavailable for patients.

Traditionally, MFPD has been limited to replacing blood volume lost during emergencies using saline solutions. However, with the implementation of the Pre-Hospital Blood Transfusion Program, CCPs and CCRNs will now have the ability to replace the actual blood lost during hemorrhaging. This will be achieved through the utilization of Low Titer O positive red blood cells and Type A plasma, bringing the treatment closer to a whole blood transfusion.

"This program is a game-changer for emergency medical care in our district," said Todd Besancenez, Assistant Chief of EMS at MFPD. "The ability to administer blood transfusions on-site during critical situations can make a significant difference in patient survival and recovery. It aligns with our commitment to delivering the highest level of care to our community."

"We've partnered with ImpactLife to host blood drives in an effort to create a sustainable blood donor source in support of this program," said Adam Hagar, Battalion Chief of EMS at MFPD. "We had our first drive on January 5th and yielded nearly 20 units of life-saving blood product which has the potential to improve the outcomes for as many as 60 patients. This community-focused program allows District employees and residents to donate blood that can be used to save the life of a friend or neighbor."

Studies have consistently demonstrated that providing a blood product closer to whole blood significantly improves patient outcomes and aids in the restoration of lost blood. The Low Titer O positive red blood cells and Type A plasma selected for this program are proven and tested to be safe for emergency transfusion situations, with reactions being uncommon and easily treatable.

"This approach presents a low-risk, high-reward scenario," said Darick Day, Battalion Chief Training Officer of EMS. "While O negative blood is the standard within controlled hospital environments, this method of using Low Titer O positive blood in combination with Type A plasma does not strain the availability of much-needed O negative blood in the region, making it sustainable and impactful."

MFPD is at the forefront of emergency medical care and innovation, setting a new standard for pre-hospital care.

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*To discuss the Pre-Hospital Blood Transfusion Program in more detail, please contact Assistance Chief of EMS Todd Besancenez at 314-565-1705 ([tbesancenez@mehlvillefire.com](mailto:tbesancenez@mehlvillefire.com)) or Director of Special Projects Bern Aniceto at 314-565-1713 ([baniceto@mehlvillefire.com](mailto:baniceto@mehlvillefire.com)).*