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Chief Jeremy Metz,  
West Metro EMS Division

Contact:  
Ronda Scholting  
Public Information Officer  
(PIO)  
West Metro Fire Rescue  
303-941-8317  
[rscholting@westmetrofire.org](mailto:rscholting@westmetrofire.org)

## West Metro Receives Lifesaving Award

*“Mission Lifeline” Recognizes Excellence in Cardiac Care*

**Lakewood, CO** – West Metro Fire Rescue has been honored by the American Heart Association (AHA) for the fire district’s lifesaving skills with patients who experience severe heart attacks. The Association’s Mission: Lifeline® EMS Award recognizes top emergency medical services providers for their efforts in improving care by rapidly identifying suspected heart attack patients, promptly notifying medical centers of incoming patients, and triggering an early response from awaiting hospital personnel.

*“We believe in a high standard of care,”* said EMS Division Chief Jeremy Metz, West Metro Fire Rescue. *“Our firefighter/paramedics play a vital role in the early recognition and treatment of a patient experiencing a heart attack. The quicker we make a diagnosis in the field, the quicker we can alert the hospitals to an incoming heart attack patient. That gives the hospital time to activate specialized resources to provide the patient with the best chance for survival and full recovery.”*

Every year, according to the AHA, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) the deadliest type of heart attack, caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires urgent treatment. For a patient to survive, it’s critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel- in a cardiac catheterization lab- or by providing clot-busting medication.

*“With a heart attack, seconds really do count,”* said Metz. *“One reason why our crews continually train in recognizing symptoms and why we send multiple resources, staffed with highly trained paramedics to any suspected cardiac call.”*

The Mission: Lifeline initiative was launched in 2007, and is focused on advancing the system of care for patients with acute, high-risk time sensitive life and/or quality of life threatening disease states, such as heart attacks and strokes, with the goal of improving and regionalizing systems across the country.

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### **About West Metro Fire Rescue:**

West Metro Fire Rescue is an internationally-accredited, ISO Class 1, full-service, all-hazard fire and rescue agency. West Metro serves nearly 280,000 residents in the cities and towns of Lakewood, Morrison, Golden, Wheat Ridge and Edgewater. The District also serves sections of Jefferson and Douglas County and unincorporated Littleton, Colorado.

WMFR is committed to providing professional fire protection, emergency medical services, life safety and community service with a vision that shapes the future.

Visit us at [www.westmetrofire.org](http://www.westmetrofire.org).

For more information on Mission: Lifeline, please visit: [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).