



February 13, 2019

West Metro Firefighters, Technology Save Lives

LUCAS CPR Device Key to Survival of Ten Patients

Lakewood, CO – Over the past year, ten patients who suffered from cardiac arrest in West Metro’s district were able to walk out of the hospital just days after firefighters used the LUCAS CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) device to treat them. All of the patients were in full cardiac arrest- unconscious, no pulse and were not breathing when West Metro crews arrived on scene. A combination of firefighter’s actions, the LUCAS device and emergency care at the hospital resulted in patient survival.

“Everyone who assisted in the treatment of the patients is responsible for the great outcome,” said Fire Chief Don Lombardi, West Metro Fire Rescue. *“And the LUCAS was a key part of that treatment. In each case, the device helped our crews get the patient’s heart beating before the ambulance arrived at the emergency room.”*

The LUCAS performs consistent, continuous CPR compressions for firefighters so they can tackle other aspects of critical patient care, such as administering medication and maintaining an airway. Patients that need immediate transport to the nearest hospital have to be moved- onto a gurney, into an ambulance and then into the hospital’s emergency room. If a crew is using only manual CPR, that means pausing chest compressions. The best CPR, according to medical research – is CPR that is continuous. The LUCAS performs compressions for firefighters, no matter where the patient is, or what position they’re in.

West Metro introduced the LUCAS to the fire district in March 2018. Then, the device was carried on about half of the district’s ambulances. With the program’s success, West Metro now has the LUCAS on every one of its eleven ambulances, with one device carried by an on duty safety and medical officer.

The ten patients, who survived their cardiac arrest, range in age from 27 to 90 years old. Six are men and four are women. All were in extremely critical condition. In three cases, a bystander had started CPR before West Metro crews arrived.

“The LUCAS has proved to be an extremely valuable tool,” said Lombardi. *“There is no better feeling for our crews than to be able to save a life.”*

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About West Metro Fire Rescue:

West Metro Fire Rescue is an ISO 1, internationally accredited, full-service, all-hazard, fire and rescue agency. We serve 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.

West Metro firefighters training with the LUCAS

[Video: Crew reunites with LUCAS patient](#)

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