



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Council Session

Item C2

Recognition of Mike Kearney and Brye Jensen with the Grand Island Fire Department's Citizen's Citation Award

Staff Contact: Troy Hughes

Council Agenda Memo

From: EMS Division Chief Russ Blackburn

Meeting: January 11, 2011

Subject: Citizen's Citation to Mike Kearney and Brye Jensen

Item #'s: C-2

Presenter(s): Fire Chief Troy Hughes
Russ Blackburn, EMS Division Chief
Ranae Foster, of the American Red Cross

Background

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States, claiming nearly 300,000 lives each year. During a sudden cardiac arrest, heart function ceases – abruptly and without warning. When this occurs, the heart is no longer able to pump blood to the rest of the body, and in some 95 percent of victims, death occurs.

While Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a significant public health crisis, it is often misunderstood. SCA is not a heart attack. A heart attack occurs when a blood vessel becomes blocked and interrupts blood flow to the heart, causing heart muscle to die. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart's electrical system malfunctions and the heart stops beating. Most of these deaths occur with little or no warning, from a syndrome called sudden cardiac arrest. The most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest is a disturbance in the heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation.

Once a cardiac arrest occurs, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation is required within the first several minutes to restore electrical activity to the heart and revive the heart's pumping function. Availability of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) is critical for rapid response to cardiac arrest.

Discussion

On November 11, 2010 Mike Kearney, a Yard Supervisor at JBS, was told a truck driver was down in the office. Mr. Kearney found the driver not breathing with no pulse. Mr. Kearney started CPR and called for help. Responding to the call for help, Brye Jensen, Occupational Health Nurse with JBS, grabbed an Automated External Defibrillator and

went to help Mr. Kearney. Ms. Jensen applied the AED and shocked the patient when advised. The two of them then performed CPR until the Fire Department paramedics arrived. This patient was defibrillated once more en route to the hospital, but was conscious and talking to the Emergency Department doctors shortly after arrival at Saint Francis Medical Center.

This incident shows the importance of having as many people as possible in the community trained in CPR. Even though help from the Fire Department is usually less than five minutes away, immediate care provided by people already at the scene can have the greatest affect on the outcome of these medical emergencies, and increase survival rates. Mr. Kearney took his CPR training with the Red Cross “years ago.” Ms. Jensen is a Red Cross CPR Instructor.

The Grand Island Fire Department would like to present Mike Kearney and Brye Jensen with the Citizen’s Citation Award for their display of heroism shown on November 11, 2010 in which they saved the life of this patient.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Mike Kearney and Brye Jensen be presented with the Grand Island Fire Department’s Citizen’s Citation for their life saving efforts on November 11, 2010.