



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Council Session

Item C3

**Recognition of Leroy Becker 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 Leroy Becker

Item #'s: C-3

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 August 27, 2010 Leroy Becker and Vern Nadrchal were at Leroy's warehouse, here in Grand Island, when Mr. Nadrchal experienced Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Leroy Becker performed CPR on his co-worker for 4 to 5 minutes before Mr. Nadrchal's heart started again and he regained consciousness.

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. Becker received his CPR training approximately 20 years ago from the Red Cross.

The Grand Island Fire Department would like to present Leroy Becker with the Citizen's Citation Award for his display of heroism shown on August 27, 2010 in which he saved the life of Vern Nadrchal.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Leroy Becker be presented with the Grand Island Fire Department's Citizen's Citation for his life saving efforts on August 27, 2010.