

News from the City of Dearborn

Dearborn – Clean and Safe

John B. O'Reilly, Jr., Mayor

Department of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2008

Dearborn Fire Department employs new life-saving techniques

DEARBORN, Mich. – Two new lifesaving devices can make Dearborn residents feel even safer in the case of an emergency.

The two devices were recently implemented by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) of the Dearborn Fire Department and both are in keeping with Dearborn's tradition of striving to provide the most advanced care available.

Staying on top of latest life-saving technology has always been a priority for Mayor John B. O'Reilly, Jr. and Fire Department leaders, who continually research new ways to improve customer service to residents.

"Dearborn definitely has one of the most advanced EMS systems in the state of Michigan. We are very progressive," said Captain Jeff Beutner, EMS coordinator.

The first new apparatus is a King Airway tube, which is an airway device that can be used when patients are unable to accept a traditional trachea tube and an alternative device is needed. This tube is easier to use and also more cost efficient.

These new airway devices have been established on all ambulances and fire trucks and emergency personnel have received the proper training for use.

The second new device is a bone injection gun, which allows paramedics to inject medicine directly into the tibia bone in the leg, if needed. This will alleviate problems when an intravenous therapy is not possible or is difficult. For example, patients who are in cardiac arrest often have low or no blood pressure, which makes finding IV access very difficult.

Both child and adult versions are available on the Dearborn ambulances and fire engines.

Beutner said he and other fire personnel continually look for ways to upgrade and improve the services. After all, 85 percent of the 10,000 dispatches to the Fire Department are of a medical nature, he said.

And some important changes have been made over the past decade.

For example, the Fire Department became Advanced Life Support certified more than 10 years ago, training all firefighters to become paramedics, as well.

Paramedics began using a sophisticated diagnostic tool for the heart about eight years ago.

And Dearborn was one of the first departments in Michigan to use a paperless program to document all services that took place during an emergency run. This eliminated filing cabinets full of files.

Another unique advance is the use of tea tree oil for burn victims who are in severe pain.

Beutner said departments view emergency services differently than they did many years ago.

“When I first started in the EMS 17 years ago, all we knew was how to give the person oxygen and a wool blanket,” he said. “It’s really unbelievable when you look at all the advances that have been made.”

PHOTO CAPTION:

Photo courtesy of the City of Dearborn

Members of the Dearborn Fire Department train with a new airway device designed to provide even better care to patients in distress during a medical emergency. Shown here are Kevin Karustis and Robin Buchholz practicing with the new device.

[NOTE ~ If you did not receive a copy of the photograph that accompanies this news release, and would like one, call Randy Coble at (313) 943-2347.]

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