



April 16, 2010

MedStar Honors Officers for Cardiac Care

Dr. Jeff Beeson, MedStar EMS associate medical director, presented MedStar's Community Hero Award to Corporal Officer Michael McDonald and Officer Austin Kidd of the White Settlement



Pictured left to right: Dr. Jeff Beeson, Officer Austin Kidd, Corporal Officer Michael McDonald

Police Department April 13. The officers were recognized for their use of CPR and an automated external defibrillator (AED) on a cardiac patient earlier this month.

CPR combined with bystander use of an AED more than doubles the chances of surviving a cardiac arrest compared with using CPR alone. White Settlement is one of few cities that equip their police cars with AEDs.

MedStar commends these officers, the police department, and the City of White Settlement for being playing such an important role in the delivery high quality emergency medical care.

The Sound of an Emergency is Getting Quieter

The traditional sound of a medical emergency is getting quieter for some patients of MedStar EMS. MedStar has stopped transporting cardiac arrest patients using lights and sirens.

Research has shown that the best chances for surviving a cardiac arrest is effective and uninterrupted chest compressions. Maintaining effective chest compressions in the back of a moving ambulance is difficult under normal circumstances. Doing them while the ambulance is being operated in emergency mode is even more difficult. Traveling in the emergency mode makes it more difficult for crews to perform procedures such as CPR, IVs, and EKGs.

In addition, our studies have shown that traveling with lights and siren only saves an average of two minutes in travel time to the hospital. Transporting without lights and siren is also safer for the rest of the traveling public, as well as patients and crews. Seventy-four percent of ambulance crashes involving a MedStar ambulance happened while crews were traveling in emergency mode.

MedStar Achieves Record Response Time Reliability

When a patient calls 9-1-1 for an ambulance, they want it to arrive quickly and render aid that provides relief. MedStar constantly strives to improve response times in order to provide better patient care.

MedStar's goal is to respond to at least 90 percent of 9-1-1 calls within designated time frames. Response time reliability is measured by the percentage of calls that meet those time goals.

So far this month, we have achieved more than 90 percent reliability of our Priority 1 response time goal.

This is the first time in MedStar's history that we've met this response time goal when not counting for exemptions.

Priority	Month-to-Date Reliability		
	Total Calls	Late	MTD %
1	1,012	88	91.3%
2	1,710	131	92.3%
3	1,119	130	88.4%
4	48	9	86.0%
5	225	8	96.6%
Overall	4,114	366	91.1%

Response time goals (90% of time):

- Priority 1 9 min. or less
- Priority 2 11 min. or less
- Priority 3-5 15 min. or less