



PRESS RELEASE, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

JOINT RELEASE

January 26, 2016

Rialto Fire/AMR offers Eisenhower High School students free CPR course

RIALTO – On Friday, January 29, 2016, the Rialto Fire Department, American Medical Response (AMR), and Rialto Unified School District's Eisenhower High School will complete a daunting task: **in one day, teach over 1,900 high school students how to save a life using compression-only CPR.** The one day training will begin on January 29, 2016, 8:30 a.m., at Eisenhower High School, located at 1321 North Lilac Avenue, in Rialto.

“This event is part of an ongoing effort by Rialto Fire and AMR to increase the survival rate from cardiac arrest in our communities. Each year, there are an estimated 630,000 deaths, due heart disease, in the nation, most of which occur while the victim is at home, at work, or somewhere in the community,” stated RFD Chief, **Mat Fratus**. “The prompt delivery of CPR more than doubles the victim’s chance of survival, and in nearly all cases bystanders are the first people available to deliver this life-saving technique. This is why these organizations are pursuing this lofty goal: to get as many people as possible trained and prepared to save a life, through CPR.”

Compression-only CPR is an abbreviated version of a full CPR certification, and can be taught in about 10 minutes with great results. Eisenhower High School Principal, **Scott Sparks**, and staff members arranged to have all students circulate through the training throughout the day, with about 70 students receiving the training, per session. Instructors from both Rialto Fire and AMR will conduct the classes that include: how to recognize cardiac arrest, what steps to take, and hands-on practice on CPR manikins. The class is set to keep the students engaged. The simple techniques are easy to remember, if and when the time comes where the service needs to be utilized.

“We are thrilled that through the support of the District and the generosity of the Fire Department and AMR personnel, our students will be receiving this free training for about 10 to 15 minutes,” replied Principal Sparks. “When I was approached by the Fire Chief, I knew that this would be a great opportunity for our students.”

RUSD Superintendent, **Dr. Cuauhtémoc Avila**, also supports the life-saving exercise. He stated, “This course will take little instruction time, and it is a useful training for our young students. One never knows when we are put in a situation where someone has to step up to save a life, so in this respect, we are appreciative to have students gain medical knowledge, thanks to the leadership of Mr. Sparks, and the service provided by Rialto Fire and AMR.”

According to Chief Fratus, this course is one of many steps that the Rialto Fire Department and AMR are sponsoring to increase survivability from cardiac arrest. The RFD has set a five-year goal to raise the survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest in the City of Rialto to be five-times the national average. For more information on this partnership, please call **Rialto Fire Department**, at (909) 844-3309 or **Communications Services**, at (909) 820-7700, ext. 2123.

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