



City of Gilroy

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DALE E. FOSTER
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For Immediate Release

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From: Dale Foster
Fire Chief

Gilroy Fire Department Awarded \$250,900 Grant for Cardiac Monitors

Fire Chief Dale Foster announces that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded the Gilroy Fire Department a grant in the amount of \$250,900 for the purchase of six cardiac monitors. This grant was awarded through the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program (AFG). The grant funds will be used to replace the existing cardiac monitors that are currently over 10 years old. "The technology in these new monitors will significantly reduce the time it takes to diagnose and treat a patient from the field setting to the emergency room," stated Foster, "We know all too well that during a significant cardiac event time is critical. The reduction of time during the diagnostics process in the field will speed up the administration of advanced treatments that will save heart tissue and lives."

AFG is a federally funded program designed to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards. This year the program was allocated over 400 million dollars in funds for the fire service.

The Gilroy Fire Department serves as the first responder to fires, hazardous materials, rescues and medical related emergencies. Firefighters are trained as Emergency Medical Technicians at the Basic and Paramedic levels. The cardiac monitor is an essential tool when responding to advanced life support (ALS) calls. As you would see in an emergency room, cardiac monitors perform 12-lead EKG readings that help fire department personnel determine the most appropriate treatment and ultimately the best hospital destination choice for the patient. The cardiac monitors function as defibrillators, blood pressure and oxygen saturation monitors. Other advanced uses for these units include cardiac pacing, cardioversion and give endtidal CO2 readings. In addition the newer models have the capability to wirelessly transmit the patient's current medical condition directly to the emergency room. This information will allow hospitals time to prepare the most appropriate medical team and treatment for the patient upon arrival.

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