

Shawnee County Fire District #1

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SCFD#1 RECEIVES NINE AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATORS

SILVER LAKE, KS: Shawnee County Fire District #1 has just received 9 Automated External Defibrillators (AED's). The purchase of these AED's was recently unanimously approved by the District Fire Board. Fire department personnel are getting familiar with these new devices and will be placing them on apparatus within the next few weeks.

The National Fire Protection Association recently changed its guideline NFPA 1901 - Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus. The new guidelines suggest that each fire apparatus should have an AED onboard. In support of this decision, members of the NFPA Guidelines committee stated, "Heart attacks are the number one killer of firefighters, and you should have this vital piece of equipment on every apparatus in case one of your members has a problem."

Utilizing an AED can mean the difference between life and death for patient experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest. According the American Heart Association (AHA), defibrillation within the first minutes of Sudden Cardiac Arrest can save the lives of up to 90% of its victims.

Prior to the decision by the Fire Board, the department had only one AED that was current with the AHA guidelines. The new purchase will not only benefit firefighters, but also anyone who resides in the district.

"I feel that every apparatus should have basic life support equipment available. Every apparatus, when deployed, has certified life support First Responders and EMT's on board. Now we have some of the tools too. I personally have responded to many medical calls in our fire trucks for one reason or another. Just last week the emergency medical response unit (Squad 61) would not start. Engine 62 became our first response unit." – Assistant Chief Cable Wilson

"Having an AED on all apparatus can provide quicker defibrillation when the need arises. Since we station trucks in Silver Lake, Grove and Menoken Townships, the proximity of an AED to all district residents is substantially better than waiting on a truck to arrive from Silver Lake." – Captain Graig Brummer

For current news, visit the Shawnee County Fire District #1 website at: www.silverlakefire.com.

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