

Cardiac Care

The Life Squad with Sylvania Township Fire Department paramedics was the first to use a new system by which some cardiac patients bypass the hospital emergency room and go to what is known as a cath lab where treatment can begin immediately.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Ramm told trustees at a recent meeting that our department was called to a scene where a woman was in distress. The squad members, because of their education, experience and equipment, were able to determine the extent of the problem, notify Toledo Hospital, and take her straight to the cath lab.

At the call of the squad, with a review of the case by a cardiologist at the hospital, a team was already assembled in the cath lab to care for the patient.

Hospital records show that the woman arrived at 1:42 p.m. and was "quickly registered" and arrived at the cath lab at 1:47 p.m.

Chief Ramm stressed that when someone is undergoing a heart attack, time is always the most important factor in survival and recovery.

Before this procedure was instituted, time was spent for diagnosis in an emergency room. Relying on the diagnostic ability of life squad members with a review of test results transmitted to the hospital, allows the procedure to bypass some traditional steps and deliver the patient immediately to where the person can receive the specific treatment necessary.

The chief told trustees that this is the "up and coming" method of care for heart attack patients and is "really good for our community."

He also told trustees that his most recent information was that the patient is recovering. In a more-recent incident, Sylvania Township paramedics were asked to be in the cath lab to assist a team of cardiologists during procedures on a patient the township crew had brought to the hospital.

The patient has since been discharged.

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