

Safety Week Media Event That Features Fire-Based EMS

Resource Introduction:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/19939764.html> Event was coordinated by David Slattery, MD - EMS Medical Director for Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

Several TV stations and print media attended media event at fire headquarters on June 13. Event included a brief PowerPoint presentation by Dr. Slattery, a special video made by Dr. Slattery was shown and provided to the media on safe and unsafe practices, a demonstration was provided in the back of one of the ambulances and then the media was provided a ride along (restrained in seat) in the unit so they could feel what it felt like. The event aired on all the local TV news including the Spanish stations.

2008 National Fire / EMS Safety, Health And Survival Week

June 22-28, 2008

Las Vegas Fire And Rescue Medical Director Demonstrates Improved Ambulance Safety

The International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Firefighters is promoting a national campaign next week emphasizing the importance of personnel safety in the fire service and EMS. One of those areas is the personnel safety in emergency vehicles. The medical director of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue (LVFR) recently made a presentation at a national conference exhibiting what LVFR has done to improve EMS personnel safety in LVFR rescue units. What he presented at that conference will be shown to the media in a special presentation today at LVFR Headquarters.

When: Friday, June 13, at 2 p.m.

Where: Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Headquarters
500 N. Casino Center Blvd., Las Vegas

What: Demonstrations of new technologies and strategies to improve EMS safety and patient care when transporting patients to the hospital.

Who: David E. Slattery, MD-EMS medical director, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue

Asst. Prof. & Research Dir., Dept of Emergency Med., Univ. of Nevada/Las Vegas

Why: Approximately 74% of EMS injuries and fatalities result from transportation incidents. Three-quarters of EMS workers caring for cardiac arrest patients are reportedly unable to wear seatbelts, increasing their risk of injury fourfold. Added to these safety risks, less than 30% of CPR chest compressions delivered manually in ambulances at high speeds are adequate.

Las Vegas Fire & Rescue has incorporated strategies aimed at reducing risks and improving patient care. These include:

- Engineering designs that place medications and instruments within easy reach of seated and restrained EMS crews.
- Automated technologies, including a mechanically assisted CPR chest compression device - the AutoPulse[®] Non-Invasive Cardiac Support Pump – that enable ambulance medics to be seated and restrained, improving both medic safety and patient care.
- Video devices and indicator lights that improve communication between the driver and EMS crew in the back of the ambulance.

Dr. Slattery will be available for interviews. A special videotape he made of personnel practicing safe procedures during a simulated emergency run in the patient compartment of a rescue unit will be shown and available to the media in DVC pro or DVD format. A LVFR Rescue unit will also be on display for the media to tour.