



Metro Cities Fire Authority METRO NET FIRE DISPATCH

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Lt. Bob Dunn (714) 497-6330
Marty DeSollar (714) 240-6051

METRO CITIES FIRE AUTHORITY LAUNCHES PULSEPOINT APP APP ALERTS CPR TRAINED CITIZENS OF NEARBY CARDIAC ARREST AND CLOSEST PUBLIC ACCESS AED

ANAHEIM, Calif. (April 16, 2014) Metro Cities Fire Authority, comprised of fire agencies from Anaheim, Brea, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach and City of Orange, today announced the trial launch of PulsePoint, a potentially lifesaving mobile application (“app”) for both Apple iOS and Android smartphones. PulsePoint alerts nearby citizens when there is a need for critical lifesaving cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the location of a nearby public access automated external defibrillator (AED). The free app is intended to improve community response to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Metro Cities Fire Authority, in cooperation with the Metro Cities’ dispatch center (Metro Net), is the first in Orange County to pilot this application.

PulsePoint is activated by Metro Net’s computer-aided dispatch at the same time as fire and paramedic resources are dispatched. It then notifies CPR-trained individuals of a cardiac incident occurring within a quarter mile of their current location. Users receive the location of the incident with a map, the closest automated external defibrillator (AED), and a link to CPR instructions. A citizen responder reacting quickly to a PulsePoint alert can greatly improve the chances of a victim’s survival.

“PulsePoint provides that critical link between public access AED and citizen CPR.” said Newport Beach Fire Chief Scott L. Poster. “With more than one million residents served by Metro Cities Fire Authority, we have the potential to really make a difference.”

Funding for this pilot program was made possible by six area hospitals including the following: Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC), Garden Grove Hospital, Hoag Hospital, Huntington Beach Hospital, Memorial Care, and University of California Irvine Medical Center (UCIMC).

SCA is a leading cause of death in the United States, accounting for an estimated 1,000 deaths per day. The American Heart Association estimates that effective CPR, provided

201 S. Anaheim Blvd.
Suite 302
Anaheim, CA 92805
(714) 765-4075





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by a bystander immediately after sudden cardiac arrest, can double or triple a person’s chance of survival. However, only about one quarter of SCA victims receive bystander CPR and even fewer receive a potentially lifesaving therapeutic shock from a public access AED.

“A bystander providing basic lifesaving measures to a cardiac arrest victim extends the chances of survival immensely,” stated Anaheim Fire Chief Randy R. Bruegman. “Your lifesaver could be in the next aisle of a retail store or perhaps at the same restaurant. When alerted through PulsePoint, citizen CPR can be administered almost immediately.”

The PulsePoint app is available free of charge on Apple iOS and Google Android devices. As of today, more than 530 communities across 18 states have enabled citizen response through PulsePoint, and 75,000 people carry the app on their smartphone. To date, the PulsePoint app has been activated on 1,500 actual cardiac emergencies informing nearly 6,000 nearby citizen rescuers.

To learn more about PulsePoint, visit www.metronetfire.org or www.pulsepoint.org.

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Metro Cities Fire Authority, also known as Metro Net Fire Dispatch, is an emergency communications center located in Orange County, California. Metro Net Fire Dispatch provides 9-1-1 Fire and EMS dispatch services to more than 1.2 million people in an area approximately 200 square miles.

Under a Joint Powers Authority agreement, Metro Net Fire Dispatch serves the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, and Orange.

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