



EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY

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El Paso County Emergency Services Agency Presents Grant Awards to Local Fire Agencies

Colorado Springs, December 12, 2011 – The El Paso County Emergency Services Agency (ESA) presented grants totaling \$19,604.63 to five local public safety agencies at its December 7 meeting in Colorado Springs.

The grants were awarded by the ESA based on evidence of need and value to the enhancement of emergency medical services in El Paso County. The grants were approved by the ESA Board at its meeting on October 5, and Chair Jim Reid, El Paso County Fire Marshal, made formal presentations at the December 7 meeting to the following agencies:

Cascade Volunteer Fire Department – Cascade VFD will use \$3,677.21 in grant funding to purchase much-needed EMS equipment, including an automatic external defibrillator (AED), pulse oximeter, and an electronic stethoscope. Chief Thomas Harris explains, “The goal of this project is to enhance CVFD’s medical response capabilities, as well as enabling CVFD to provide our patients with the most up to date and advanced medical care that is currently available.”

El Paso County Sheriff’s Office and Colorado Springs Police Department – After being awarded \$4,929.49 each, the departments will equip over 100 patrol and special operations units with Trauma Medical Kits. “Police officers are shot or stabbed in the line of duty across the U.S....many times the wounds are survivable if immediate medical aid is rendered. In many cases the only medical aid immediately available is from the wounded officer or their partner,” said Patty Baxter, El Paso County Emergency Manager.

Southwest Highway 115 Fire Protection District - This department will put its \$3,696.85 grant award to good use by purchasing EMS equipment, including rescue litters, pulse oximeters, and oxygen equipment. Said Chief Mel Ryan, “The purchase of this equipment will provide the fire department with greater capabilities to respond to give basic lifesaving until paramedics and emergency transport units arrive.”

Green Mountain Falls/Chipita Park VFD – The GMFCPVFD will utilize its EMS grant funding of \$2,451.59 to replace inoperable gas testing equipment used to check carbon monoxide (CO) levels in structures. “Our department responds to several CO alarm calls every year and the gas tester is our best tool to check it in different situations,” said Chief Steve Murphy.

The ESA is pleased to make the awards, said ESA Chair Jim Reid. "The ESA Board is committed to ensuring that the citizens of El Paso County have access to the best emergency medical service possible, and the EMS grant program is a big part of that commitment."

"These grants allow the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) to assist fire districts and departments that might not otherwise be able to afford important equipment", said El Paso County Commissioner Sallie Clark, who also serves on the ESA Board. "As the county commissioner whose district represents Cascade, Green Mountain Falls and the Highway 115 area, it's especially rewarding to know that these much needed resources will help to increase safety for both our emergency services workers and the community."

The ESA is a 12-member volunteer board consisting of local elected officials, medical professionals, and citizens. It contracts with American Medical Response of Colorado for ground emergency ambulance service throughout much of El Paso County.
