

Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Medical Emergency with CPR and AED

Date: April 17, 2022

Location: West Celina Prescribed Fire
Hoosier National Forest, Indiana

*Agonal breathing was observed but
no pulse and no respirations were found.*

Responding to a Medical Emergency on a Prescribed Fire



The Interagency EMS Crew Members and Dispatchers with Their Patient – 11 Days After This Medical Incident

Back Row (left to right – standing): Jamie Richey, EMT Perry County; Tyler Hatfield, First Responder Hoosier National Forest; Micah Jackson, Perry County Dispatcher; Todd Wood, AD Firefighter Hoosier National Forest (Patient); Lynn Fravell, Perry County Paramedic.

Front Row (left to right – kneeling): Gage Otto, AD Firefighter/EMT, Hoosier National Forest; Lauren Zack, EMT Hoosier National Forest; Tracy Young, Perry County Dispatcher; Jason Combs, Firefighter Hoosier National Forest.

Narrative

After completion of the 450-acre West Celina Prescribed Fire, an AD firefighter was released and preparing to leave the area, waiting for a performance evaluation. The evaluator found the AD firefighter on the ground halfway under his private vehicle in a prone position.

The evaluator tried to communicate with the firefighter but received no response. The evaluator immediately called 911 and contacted the Burn Boss. Within minutes, an agency vehicle arrived with an EMT on board who did a patient assessment.

Agonal breathing was observed but no pulse or respirations were found. CPR and rescue breaths began. Shortly after, the engine arrived and an AED was put in place. Five shocks were advised and administered in between CPR rotations. Next, local EMS arrived on scene and continued critical care, implemented three additional shocks with their AED, and gave the patient epinephrin. A pulse was indicated, and the patient started to breath on his own with assistance.

The patient was loaded into an ambulance, transported to a helispot, and was flown by air ambulance to a local Cardiac Care Unit in Louisville, Kentucky, where two stents were implanted. The firefighter was in the ICU for two days and has since been released from the hospital.

Lessons/Successes

- ❖ Having trained EMTs on this unit and on this prescribed fire.
- ❖ Maintaining the AED on the engine and marking the compartment.
- ❖ Calling 911 immediately.
- ❖ Utilizing an air ambulance.
- ❖ Having the Fire Management Officer, who was on scene, travel to the hospital to serve as the Family Liaison.

This RLS was submitted by:
Fire Management Officer

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Check Out the Lessons from these Previous Medical Emergency Incidents Where AEDs Saved Lives

Automated External Defibrillator Successes RLS (2015)

This RLS provides the links to five incidents where an AED saved a life:

<https://www.wildfirelessons.net/viewdocument/automated-external-defibrillator-su>