



CONCORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Cooperative Care Initiative

*By Lt. Matt Sabo, EMT-P
EMS Coordinator*

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the **Cooperative Care Initiative (CCI)** to you, the residents and businesses of Concord Township.

CCI is a public education program focused on reducing morbidity and mortality in Concord Township through CPR & AED training, cardiovascular screening throughout the year, providing education in recognition of the signs and symptoms of heart attack, stroke and cardiac arrest as well as providing a means for our businesses to purchase Automatic External Defibrillators at a discounted price.

University Hospitals is offering cardiovascular screening through the DARE to C.A.R.E. program. The C.A.R.E. stands for the different areas of screening. The C represents the carotids, the A stands for the abdomen, the R represents renal or kidney function and the E represents the extremities. We are very pleased that the first offering for the screening on June 25 & 26 filled up very quickly. In response to the interest in screening, we have added an additional screening on August 21 & 22. Please call the Concord Community Center to register for the cardiovascular screening. This is a free service.

I am also pleased to announce that Concord Fire has also partnered up with Cintas for the Cooperative Care Initiative. Cintas has put together a package specifically for the businesses of Concord Township. They are offering Automatic External Defibrillators to our businesses for \$1,295.00 for a \$200.00 savings!!! If any businesses are interested in purchasing an AED, please call the fire station 440-354-7504 for more information.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to address the signs & symptoms of heart attack, stroke and cardiac arrest.

As in any emergency, it is imperative that a call be placed to 911 immediately. When faced with a heart attack, stroke or cardiac arrest there is only minutes to provide life saving interventions. If you're ever in doubt, call 911 and we'll be happy to provide an evaluation.

Heart attacks can present as an intense pain or can be very subtle. Usually a heart attack presents with a dull, crushing chest pain that may radiate in one or both arms, neck, jaw or stomach. The pain can be constant or intermittent. If the pain goes away, it does not necessarily mean the problem is gone. It can also be accompanied by difficulty breathing or shortness of breath and sweating, nausea. Call 911 immediately!!!

Strokes present with several symptoms which may be present all at once or one at a time. Some of these symptoms include: sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

There are many new medications available to reduce the amount of injury during a heart attack and stroke. However, 911 must be contacted immediately upon presentation of symptoms to have a chance at the best possible outcome.

Cardiac arrest strikes immediately and is identified as a sudden loss of consciousness and no normal breathing. If you identify someone with these symptoms, call 911 and begin the steps of CPR immediately. Remember that Concord Fire Dept offers CPR and AED training to you throughout the year. Our dispatchers can also help you with the steps of CPR when you call 911.

Over the past couple of years, your fire department has become very aggressive in the management of heart attack and stroke. When we are called to a patient exhibiting signs and symptoms of heart attack, we perform a 12 lead EKG. This helps us see any damage in the heart muscle through electrical activity. We have the ability to send this EKG directly to a physician or cardiologist from your living room. They will be waiting in the catheterization lab with all the data they need to provide you with life saving care.

I would like to thank University Hospitals and Cintas for partnering up with us to provide our community with the tools necessary to help us save lives.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Cooperative Care Initiative, please call the Fire Station at 440-354-7504 or email me at Lt.sabo@concordtwp.com.

Thank you,

Lt. Matt Sabo, EMT-P
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Concord Fire Department
