



M E M O R A N D U M



DATE: 14 July 2017
TO: City Manager Grabowski
FROM: Chief Thomas K. Freeman
RE: Emergency Medical Services--Rescue 1 Summary June 2017

The following represents some of the data compiled reflecting the first month of service for the Rapid Response Vehicle—Rescue 1. This vehicle was placed into service on 3 June 2017 at 0700 hours in an effort to address the issue of third and fourth ambulance calls and subsequent gap in the paramedic arrival on the scene of 3% of calls of service in the City of Elmhurst. The corresponding increase also created the need for additional mutual aid ambulance calls from nearby communities contributing to that delay.

Since the rollout of Rescue 1 there have been numerous times that “internal” change of quarters from Station 1 to Station 2 have taken place. Station 1 has been determined to be the home base for Rescue 1 where it is housed and quartered on a normal basis. Change of quarters take place so that a station’s district would be covered as much as possible when only one ambulance remains in the City, e.g. Medic 2 is dispatched on a call and Rescue 1 would change quarters to Station 2 for coverage. Rescue 1 on average moves between stations three to four times daily. Since June 3rd, Rescue 1 covered a vacant station’s response area 80 times.

This internal response was determined prior to the vehicle being placed in service as well as a staffing model which consisted on nine medics, three deep on each shift in matrix form, one primary, one secondary and one tertiary paramedic fulfilling the position on Rescue 1 on a daily basis. Rescue 1’s responses were independent of DuComm from the standpoint that there would be no interface nor dispatching by DuComm for change of quarter or emergency response outside of the City limits. Additionally, all change of quarters were to be in a non-emergent mode.

Often during an internal change of quarters to cover a committed medic, a subsequent emergency call would arise during transit. On 25 calls, Rescue 1 responded when there would not normally be an ambulance in that station's district. Additionally there were numerous times when Rescue 1 handled a refusal of service by a patient thereby freeing up Medic 1 or Medic 2 so as to be available for subsequent calls. Officially, during the month of June, Rescue 1 responded to 48 calls for service at a time when both Medic 1 and Medic 2 were committed to prior calls. The nature of the calls consisted of:

Call for Service	Number of Calls
Sick persons	9
Seizures	4
Accidents	10
Falls	7
Psychiatric evaluation	1
Chest pain/cardiac	2
Stroke	2
Breathing problem	3
Unfounded/no patient	3
Abdominal pain	1
Unconscious/fainting	3
DOA	1
Hemorrhage/laceration	2

Some of the more significant incidents involving Rescue 1 are as follows:

While both Medic 1 and Medic 2 were committed to I-290 on a multi-vehicle accident, Rescue 1 was dispatched along with a mutual aid ambulance to McMaster-Carr for a traumatic injury. Elmhurst Squad 1 was dispatched to respond along with Rescue 1. Both arrived on the scene simultaneously, yet Rescue 1 had an additional advantage that neither Medic 1 nor Medic 2 have; that is the ability to literally drive into McMaster-Carr thereby further expediting patient contact. Rescue 1 began treating and assessing the patient eight minutes prior to the arrival of a mutual aid ambulance to the scene thereby alleviating the need for Squad 1 to be incapable of beginning advanced life support care, which was required for this patient.

While "on the street" Rescue 1 responded to a call on Addison Avenue for a sick person; Rescue 1 arrived 2 minutes 10 seconds before the first Elmhurst Fire Company and prior to Elmhurst Medic 1.

Rescue 1 responded while in Station's 2 District's along with Tower Ladder 2 for a fall victim; Rescue 1 began assessment and treatment while waiting for Medic 1's arrival.

While in Station's 2 District along with a response with Truck 2 and Engine 2. Rescue 1 arrived and began ALS care while awaiting Medic 1 arrival.

While in Fire Station's 2 District, Rescue 1 responded with Engine 2 to the scene of a medical emergency and began ALS treatment of a patient prior to Medic 1 arriving.

Rescue 1 responded to I-290, along with other Elmhurst fire companies, for a multi-vehicle accident with the numerous potential victims; Rescue 1 medically triaged and obtained releases on all patients thereby freeing the Elmhurst Medics to return to quarters and become available for subsequent calls.

On two separate occasions Rescue 1 maintained necessary continuity of patient care while awaiting a private ambulance for a longer non-emergent transport to a distant hospital facility. This procedure makes available an Elmhurst Medic unit that would have previously needed to standby for some 30 minutes to await a private ambulance.

Rescue 1 on numerous occasions obtained refusals of service from patients thereby making Medic 1 and Medic 2 available for subsequent calls.

Some of the objectives which were met:

- Decreased time that a fire company was on scene while awaiting Elmhurst paramedics by 2.6 minutes.
- Decreased time that a fire company was on scene while awaiting mutual aid paramedics and therefore, decreased medic to patient time by 3.5 minutes.

It has been obvious that some of the predicted advantages have come to fruition with Rescue 1 providing ALS response on all shifts when one or more of our existing medic ambulances are not available. Additionally, Rescue 1 has provided decreased response times for patient contact and the initiation of ALS care. It has filled the previously existing gap in on scene paramedic availability when an existing ambulance is out of service or not readily available. There has been great flexibility on the movement of Rescue 1 when it is needed, most obvious during peak traffic times. It has provided standby availability for large crowds such as the rooftop Jazz Festival. The senior paramedics assigned to the vehicle have been given guidelines as well as latitudes in their response and have the prerogative of responding to any significant injury, including but not limited to mass casualty, specialty team response, multi-vehicular accidents, occupied bus, etc. and have done so with proven beneficial results. Additionally, the first month of Rescue 1's service, the on duty Battalion Chief has responded along with appropriate suppression company and Rescue 1 to provide additional supervisory capacity for operational review and handling of the calls.

In summary, with one month in review, the implementation of a Rapid Response Vehicle for the Elmhurst Fire Department has proven to be very positive.