



EL PASO COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY

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

Colorado Springs, March 24, 2008 - El Paso County Emergency Services Agency (ESA) will award grants totaling \$8,360.00 to Calhan Fire Protection Department and Falcon Fire Protection District at its April meeting. The meeting will be at 2 p.m. April 2 in the second floor hearing room Pikes Peak Regional Building Department, 2880 International Circle.

The grants were awarded based on evidence of need and value to the enhancement of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the community. The grants were awarded to the following two agencies:

Falcon Fire Protection District – Falcon will receive funding to purchase three Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) and two (2) AED Trainers. Due to the growth in the area that Falcon Fire Protection District serves, first responders need more AEDs to use with patients who are experiencing cardiac arrests. Use of AEDs is one element of patient care strongly recommended by the American Heart Association.

“Thanks to the ESA, the community will benefit from this endeavor,” Deputy Chief Jeffery Petersma said.

Calhan Fire Protection District – Calhan received funding to purchase two Capnography/Oximetry devices costing \$2,140 each. This equipment is vital to accurately monitor the carbon dioxide levels in the blood and assist in the proper placement of the endotracheal tube. It will be a great service to patients who have been given medications that may cause respiratory depression and patients with respiratory distress.

EMS Captain Ginger Flynn said, “It is important to us to provide the same level of care that is required of the contracted ambulance company. With the purchase and integration of the capnography/oximetry devices in the assessment and treatment of patients, we will be able to monitor the patient’s respiratory effort with a greater degree of accuracy.”

The ESA is pleased to make the awards, said ESA Chair Jim Reid. "The ESA Board has a commitment to providing the best services to El Paso County residents as it relates to emergency medical and fire service." Reid added.

The Emergency Services Agency is an 11-member (AP Style) volunteer board made up of an elected official from El Paso County, the city of Colorado Springs, and the City of Fountain, as well as representatives from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado Springs Fire Department, the El Paso County Fire Chief's Forum, Memorial Health System and Penrose St. Francis Health Services, the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment, other related professionals, and citizens of the community.

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