WARWICK COMMUNITY AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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New Advanced Life Support Equipment put into service. Please welcome Lucas2.

Every year in the United States, more than 1,250,000 people suffer cardiac emergencies that result in either their death or loss of partial heart function. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is a lifesaving technique, used when someone is not breathing or their heart has stopped, which can save lives by circulating oxygen to the brain and other vital organs until definitive treatment is available. The challenge is for emergency responders to provide sustained, effective CPR at the scene and throughout transport. When someone collapses from sudden cardiac arrest, the person must receive rapid CPR and defibrillation within minutes or they will die. The American Heart Association has stated that CPR is important both before and after defibrillation. When performed immediately after collapse from sudden cardiac arrest, **effective CPR can double or triple the victim's chance of survival**.

Paramedic Loren Miller explains the Lucas2 CPR device to EMTs Corey Felker (left) and Renae Zeigler (right).

Cardiac arrest calls are responded to by a WCAA Advanced Life Support Unit, staffed with a Medic, and a Basic Life Support Ambulance, staffed with 2 crew members, who manually perform CPR. Manual compressions are performed by the medic standing in the back of the ambulance while traveling at high speeds, through traffic, throughout the transport. It is difficult to perform adequate CPR in a moving ambulance. Additionally, with limited personnel, it is difficult to perform all initial tasks on scene that are required for successful resuscitation. The automated chest compression devices (Lucas2 Chest Compression System) free up personnel on scene to intubate (provide advanced airways to assist with breathing), start IV's, administer drugs, defibrillate, and perform other necessary functions required by the American Heart Association protocols for cardiac arrest.

Implementation of this life-saving equipment provides the patient with the best available chance for survival due to consistent depth and rates of compression while the patient is being treated and transported. Additionally, the use of an automated chest compression device has been shown to enable responders to think ahead regarding patient treatment rather than focus on compressions, allowing for a less stressful situation. Specific benefits of the equipment include:

- The chest compression device performs 100 compressions per minute with a depth of 2 inches with the same efficiency for all patients.
- The device allows for complete chest wall recoil after each compression and provides a 50% duty cycle, which allows for equal compression and relaxation time for the chest wall.
- The automated chest compression device will circulate drugs faster and more completely improving the chances of inducing a rhythm that can be defibrillated.
- Restoring blood flow to normal levels will help the medic to establish an intravenous line due to the inflation of the veins making it easier for the medic to find a vein to start the line and administer appropriate drug therapies.
- Using the device will reduce the stress and strain on the responding medics and make the transport safer as the medic can be seated to perform treatment instead of standing over the patient.
- The device reduces rib fractures and cartilage damage compared to manual compression during CPR.

For additional information you are welcome to call the business office at 717-627-0143 or send an email to info@warwickems.org.

"Committed To Delivering Quality Service"