

East Fork celebrates new Cardiac Monitors

East Fork Fire Protection District recently purchased five new cardiac monitors. These monitors are for five of their eight paramedic equipped apparatus. One of these monitors was donated to East Fork by members of the former Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Department. The former Jacks Valley Volunteers donated \$26,000 for the cardiac monitor now found on Rescue 12. This monitor is credited with identifying four heart attacks in the Jacks Valley and Johnson Lane area since placed in service in May. These four heart attack patients were able to get advanced care at the hospital faster because of the field recognition of the heart attack using the new device.



On Friday, August 26th, Firefighter/Paramedic Alex Callahan and Firefighter Michael Soracco along with Chiefs Tod Carlini and Dave Fogerson showed off Rescue 12's new cardiac monitor to the former Jacks Valley Volunteer members. Four prior members arrived with a signed check from a majority of their past members to celebrate the event.

Firefighter/Paramedic Callahan explained the new cardiac monitors allow him to look at the heart 12 different ways; the same as a 12-lead cardiac monitor in a hospital. It provides electricity for the firefighter/paramedic to treat a multitude of cardiac conditions such as cardiac arrest or to pace a heart so it beats at the correct rate. It also transmits the 12-lead recording to the newest hospital with a catheterization lab. East Fork, along with all regional fire agencies, has a program in place where the patient experiencing a heart attack in the field can be taken directly to the cath lab, bypassing the emergency department to save time. This enables lifesaving percutaneous coronary intervention to occur to remove any clots that are causing the heart attack.



The new monitors were purchased after an exhaustive selection process led by Firefighter/Paramedic Dereck Jackson. The five new monitors, costing \$28,000 each, replaced 10 year old technology. Three paramedic fire engines, including Engine 12 which is housed with Rescue 12, have the older technology until additional funds can be found. It was important to East Fork to place the new monitors on the firefighter/paramedic ambulances and the busiest paramedic engine company, Engine 7 in the Ranchos.

The need still exists to obtain new monitors for the other three paramedic fire engines as it is common for a paramedic engine to arrive before a firefighter/paramedic ambulance.

Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Department consolidated with the Johnson Lane Volunteer Fire Department a number of years ago. The consolidation left money in a bank account that was closed out this year. Former volunteers LeRoy and Shelia Clement wanted to spend the money on something medically related to benefit their Jack's Valley community. They contacted other former Jacks Valley members to gain approval for the donation to close the bank account. Jacks Valley Volunteer Fire Department operated two ambulances at a time when Jacks Valley was geographically isolated from both Minden and Carson City.



The show and tell was cut short as Engine 12 and Rescue 12 were dispatched to a victim of a fall in Johnson Lane. As the group was dispersing, a second call came in for a public assist in the Jacks Valley area that Battalion Chief Larry Goss and a firefighter/paramedic ambulance from Station 14 in Minden responded. This got the dispersing group to gather again to speak to the changes they have seen in their community through the years. Each of those present said they started as volunteer firefighters when they realized they

had no one else to respond to their emergency call.

“The ability of Jack’s Valley Volunteer Fire Department to continue their legacy long into the future by their willingness to donate funds to purchase Rescue 12’s cardiac monitor is outstanding. It shows the commitment this organization has to the residents of their community,” says Deputy Chief Dave Fogerson.