

Lincoln Fire and Rescue (LF&R) was honored Tuesday, June 14 at an awards presentation in the Municipal Service Center EMS Office, Lincoln Nebraska. The American Heart Association awarded the fire based EMS service the AHA Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Award. This award is in recognition for providing high quality treatment to patients who experience STEMI heart attacks.

LF&R representatives were joined by community healthcare partners from Bryan Health, Bryan Heart Institute, Nebraska Heart Hospital, St E's Regional Medical Center, EMSOA Board members, along with the American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline Representative

The requirements to achieve the Gold Award is previously having won the Silver Award and 75 percent compliance in the following core measures.

- 94.9 percent of patients with non-traumatic chest pain, 35 years of age or older, received a pre-hospital 12-Lead ECG.
- 93.6 percent of STEMI patients treated and transported to a STEMI receiving facility had a total time from first medical contact to device of less than or equal to 90 minutes.
- Greater than 75 percent of the time the hospitals were notified within nine (9) minutes after the first positive 12 lead that indicated a STEMI.

LF&R's compliance far exceeds the standards in all core measures.

LF&R was the only agency to win a Mission: Lifeline award in the State of Nebraska last year and is the first emergency medical services provider in the State of Nebraska to achieve the prestigious Gold Award. The Mission: Lifeline Gold Award is the highest designation that can be awarded to an organization and can be earned only on a second or subsequent submission.

Every year, more than 250,000 people experience a STEMI (a Myocardial Infarction or a heart attack that shows ST elevation on the ECG). Healthcare providers have worked to educate the public to recognize the first signs of a heart attack and to quickly call 9-1-1. Nationally, hospitals have worked diligently on internal procedures to reduce door to balloon (treatment) time and measure those times as its proven time is muscle – meaning that the longer the heart is deprived of blood flow and oxygen, the more muscle damage or loss it experiences. Until Mission: Lifeline, there have been no national core measures for the time spent getting the patient to the emergency room door by EMS. These measures now set national benchmarks for EMS which will drive better patient care and improve outcomes.