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Ambulance Corps**

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Summer 2024

Imagine sitting in the company of a close friend, enjoying the evening, when quite suddenly your friend slumps and loses consciousness. You took CPR training many years ago, and it is clear to you that this is a cardiac arrest. You call 911 for the ambulance and have the presence of mind to put your cell phone on speaker.

While speaking to the RCC operator, you slide your friend to the floor and desperately recall the essence of that long ago CPR training... and proceed. *“Each compression of the chest should be 2 inches”* echoes in your memory... and that means 80 to 100 pounds for each push!! At a rate of 80 to 100 per minute.

Dispatch says that the ambulance is on its way.

“30 compressions and then two spaced breaths into the patient’s lungs. Don’t interrupt the compressions for more than 10 seconds!”

It has been more than twenty minutes of this procedure when the ambulance arrives. You are physically failing, at the limit of your endurance. Recommended rotation of persons doing manual compressions is every two minutes! Most are at their limit in ten minutes, becoming increasingly erratic after two.

One crew member takes over your efforts. The second crew member sets up a Lucas Chest Compression system and in about two minutes the device is doing the work in a precisely measured fashion. No interruptions in the manual compressions of more than ten seconds during set up. Defibrillation is possible, if required, while the LUCAS is running. The device is set to pause every 30 cycles for two assisted breaths.

With the help of the LUCAS device and the critical care provided by the EMS crew, your friend regains pulses. They are transported to the ED with

EMS providing breathing and medications to keep your friend alive. Today? Recovered. Without LUCAS survival would have been very unlikely.

PAC has responded to 8 to 10 cardiac arrests per year... this year is already at 8. We have one LUCAS and two ambulances plus one truck in reserve. There is a compelling need for at least one more LUCAS. Help us increase the odds of you getting a truck with the LUCAS device! The cost of each device is \$20,000. Please consider the importance of your donation toward this goal.

Dear Supporter

And then there was this:

“_____was a neighbor of ours. In his last weeks of life, he called PAC sometimes twice a day to pick him up off the floor or take him to the ER. _____ and I are sending this donation in his memory. Thank you for all you do for our community.”

I called to get permission to use part of this note. I got that permission with a close up and personal description of the support: “many of those visits were difficult situations. The responding crews were unfailing in their good spirit. They deserve more appreciation and credit for these visits than they can possibly receive.”

Sometimes easing the pain and confusion of passing from this world is every bit as important as saving a life from an untoward departure from it.



Robert Vaughan, President
Peninsula Ambulance Corps



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