

SPRING GROVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PURCHASES LUCAS™ CPR DEVICE WITH DONATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Spring Grove Fire Protection District unanimously voted to purchase a LUCAS CPR Device at their last meeting, November 15th. The purchase will cost taxpayers no tax dollars as the funds were obtained through donations and the Oxtoby House garage sale, supported by many of the residents (both donations and purchases). Additional funds were provided by Memorial Fund Donations made to the Rescue Squad over the past 3-4 years, and a large donation from the Spring Grove Firefighter's Association from the proceeds of their Annual Steak Fry.

The LUCAS tool is a device that standardizes compressions in accordance with the latest scientific guidelines. Experimental studies show that a higher blood flow to the brain and heart is achieved with the device (when compared to manual compressions). And it frees up one or more rescuers to perform other life-saving skills. It can be applied in 20 seconds or less and can perform compressions under less than ideal conditions (e.g. in a moving ambulance).

The device should arrive at the station within a couple of weeks and will be put in service after training. It was purchased along with new Cardiac Monitor Defibrillators which replaced the current LifePak 12's (Physio sunsets those devices the end of December 2016). Plans are under way to continue to fund raise and budget for a 2nd LUCAS device so that each ambulance will have one.

Chief Rich Tobiasz noted, "CPR has become the foundation for resuscitation of the cardiac arrest patient. 'Thumpers' have been around for a long time. But the original models were cumbersome and very heavy. This new LUCAS device will have a definite effect on the service we can provide our residents. At this time of Thanksgiving, a huge thank you is due to all of you who supported this venture, not only from the Fire District, but from those who will benefit from its potential life-saving effects."