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PRESS RELEASE

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(August 22, 2023) Sachse, TX.... Sachse Fire-Rescue (SFR) receives 2023 National EMS Award of Excellence.

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) and EMS World announced on August 16th, 2023 that SFR was named the recipient of the Dick Ferneau Career EMS Service of the Year Award. Sachse Fire-Rescue (SFR) is honored to be the second fire-based EMS service to receive this prestigious award. The excellence awards recognize outstanding contributions to the EMS profession and the patients they serve.

Under the leadership of Chief Marty Wade, Sachse Fire-Rescue offers all-hazard services to the residents of Sachse. The work is provided by a 39-person team of professionals operating out of two fire stations with an annual volume of 3,200 calls for service. The department has three licensed Mobile Intensive Care Units and is in the process of implementing point of care lab tests utilizing the ePOC blood analysis system. In 2020, SFR partnered with Justin Northeim, DO, as medical director. All paramedics were brought up to a standard baseline of knowledge including required certifications in BLS, ACLS, PEPP, AMLS, PHTLS, TECC, geriatric EMS, EMS safety, and neonatal resuscitation. Deputy Chief of Operations Lee Richardson stated “for a fire-based EMS service, we provide a very elevated level of care.”

In addition to the heightened credentialing requirements, the department is also developing an EMS-specific career path and an MIH-CP program with a telehealth component. Chief Wade indicated “these programs improve our service, elevate level of care, and offer opportunities for employee engagement and advancement within the organization.”

Under SFR’s leadership, the City of Sachse has been designated as a “Heart Safe Community” through the Cardiac Committee of the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council (NCTTRAC) and several SFR members sit on various NCTTRAC and regional hospital system committees. SFR further provides community outreach and education to businesses and groups within the city such as CPR/AED, “Stop the Bleed”, fall prevention, and proper use of fire extinguishers. A robust continuing education program is directly tied to the department’s continuous quality improvement initiative. SFR leverages real-time and cumulative data via the BEST system to evaluate how they measure up to other services and to identify improvement strategies.

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