



The Responder

An informational resource for the responders of Chester County.

DES remains Nationally Accredited by EMAP

The Chester County Department of Emergency Services remains nationally accredited by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) for another five years.

To achieve this elite status, the department demonstrated, through a voluntary peer assessment team, their capabilities of disaster preparedness and response actions. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs for compliance with requirements in 16 areas including planning, resource management, training, exercises, evaluations and corrective actions, and communications and warnings.

EMAP is the only accreditation process for emergency management programs in the nation and recognizes the ability of emergency management programs to bring together personnel, resources and communications from a variety of agencies and organizations in preparation for, and in response to an emergency. The proven ability to measure these capabilities is also a key part of the EMAP accreditation.

Chester County Director of Emergency Services Mike Murphy stated, "The Emergency Management Division staff worked tirelessly over the past five years to maintain the initial accreditation and prepare for re-accreditation. Specifically Emergency Management Division staff Andrew Thurston and Thaddeus Kavanagh spent a tremendous amount of time as our Program Accreditation Managers. By achieving re-accreditation we have demonstrated discipline and accountability in regularly reviewing, maintaining and documenting compliance with standards and best practices, and have proven yet again that Chester County has an exceptional Emergency Management Program."



L to R: Commissioner Farrell, Ted Kavanagh, Commissioner Kichline, Director Murphy, Deputy Director Turner, Commissioner Cozzone

Renaissance Academy Active Threat Exercise



On June 8, 2019 the Renaissance Academy Charter School, Phoenixville Borough Emergency Service agencies and surrounding police and EMS departments conducted an Active Threat exercise. Facilitated by the Chester County Department of Emergency Services, the goal of the exercise was to review and evaluate the preparedness plans of the school and the local agencies. In total, approximately 150 people participated.

The exercise simulated an unknown intruder gaining unauthorized access to the building. Immediately upon entering the building, the man began firing a simulated weapon. School officials immediately contacted 9-1-1. The Phoenixville Borough Police were dispatched and rapidly responded to the school. Additional law enforcement officials from East Pikeland, Schuylkill, Tredyffrin, Uwchlan, and West Whiteland Police Departments coordinated a response to ensure the intruder was located quickly.



In addition to officers carrying authentic training weapons and utilizing simulation ammunition, an additional level of realism was added by the voluntary student actors; screaming, yelling, and simulated injuries. As students were identified as “injured” a local EMS unit was dispatched to assist.



EMS units first on-scene began to assess the nature of injuries. Due to the nature and number of injuries additional units were summoned from Trappe EMS of Phoenixville, Phoenixville Fire Department, West End Fire Company #3 of Phoenixville and Royersford EMS. Patients were transported to either a simulated hospital on campus or Phoenixville Hospital. The hospital used their participation in the exercise to test their own surge capabilities.

This exercise allowed first responders and the school staff to practice integration of policies and procedures during such an Active Threat event.

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WebEOC Update

WebEOC has been live and in use in Chester County since May 1, 2019. The incident management software is in use in all five Southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) region counties, which include Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia. The transition from Knowledge Center to WebEOC helps Chester County align its incident management software with its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) operations. The SEPA region is continuing to improve and tweak its deployment of WebEOC, including existing boards (tools in the software) and new boards.

As of July 18, a total of 43 municipal emergency management coordinators (EMCs) and other municipal emergency management staff have attended training sessions on WebEOC. These attendees represent 40 of the county's 73 municipalities.

As with the roll-out of any new software, there is a lot to learn and questions arise. Below are some frequently asked questions and corresponding answers:

Q1: What is WebEOC?

WebEOC is an incident management software that allows emergency managers to track incident information, log activities, share information, and establish shared situational awareness during daily operations, emergencies, and disasters.

Q2: When did Chester County's WebEOC go live?

Chester County's WebEOC went live on May 1, 2019. Some elements of WebEOC are still being developed and populated, but the majority of the tools, also known as boards, were operational on May 1. As with any software, updates are expected, and the software will continue to be built out to meet the needs of Chester County and the SEPA Regional Task Force.

Q3: Is WebEOC fully developed?

WebEOC's baseline tools, also known as boards, are live. Additional updates are being made to continue improving the system's functionality and meet the needs of Chester County.

Q4: Why did I stop receiving incident notifications?

Knowledge Center, which provided incident notifications previously, was shut off on May 1, 2019. The Chester County Department of Emergency Services (DES) established a new incident notification process, which connects WebEOC's event reporting to ChescoAlert (an Everbridge system). When an entry is created in the WebEOC Watch Log, the system sends



information to ChescoAlert for distribution based on municipality. Notification recipients are targeted based on municipal-specific groups in ChescoAlert, not WebEOC. The ChescoAlert distribution groups for WebEOC notifications do not include all individuals that received notifications in the past.

Q5: How do I get signed up for the new notifications?

First, if you do not have a ChescoAlert account, you can request an account by email (notificationsupport@chesco.org). The ChescoAlert system is not used for public-facing messages. To have an account, you must be part of the emergency services community or a partner organization.

Second, in your ChescoAlert account, please sign-up for municipal-specific WebEOC event notifications under the *Additional Information* section of your user profile. Once you make your selections, please email the ChescoAlert administrators (notificationsupport@chesco.org) to let us know you made your selections. One of the ChescoAlert administrators will evaluate your request to receive municipal-specific WebEOC event notifications and will notify you once the authorization process is complete.

Q7: Is Chester County's WebEOC connected to the state and SEPA region?

Yes. Chester County's WebEOC has connection points for information sharing with all the SEPA region counties, and a connection is being established to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's WebEOC.

Course	Municipal Attendees	Municipalities Represented
Introduction to WebEOC	28	31
WebEOC Hands-on Training	25	27

First Due Trench Rescue

Article used by permission from the Lionville Fire Company

On Wednesday, June 5th at 2:07 PM the Lionville Fire Company, Uwchlan EMS and Uwchlan Police were dispatched to Norwood Rd and Beech St in Uwchlan Township for a subject trapped in a sewer construction trench.

Initial reports indicated that the worker was trapped 10 feet down in a trench, based on the supplemental information a request for additional resources was made which alerted both the Chester County Rescue Task Force Trench Rescue Team and the East Goshen Township Public Works Trench Rescue Team.

Initial arriving units found a subject trapped up to his waist in a sewer excavation. Crews made initial attempts to remove the victim but due to his location and the soil were unable to do so.

As additional units arrived on scene, they began placing ground pads and additional shoring to ensure that there would be no further collapse of the trench, while technical rescue paramedics from Station 2 (Berwyn Fire Company) entered the space to evaluate and begin treatment. Due to soil conditions, two vacuum trucks were requested to respond to assist in soil removal. The victim remained conscious and cooperative throughout.

Members worked feverishly but deliberately, as the hours ticked by, and progress was slow.

Additional resources were dispatched, including Rehab 55 (Good Fellowship EMS) along with the Chester County Incident Support Team (IST) and Mobile Communications Unit (Comm 1) and several ATVs. Chester County Rescue Task Force Leader Kevin Corcoran, in conjunction with Command, placed a request for mutual aid from the Montgomery County USAR Team. Shortly after these additional resources were mobilized, on scene technical rescue crews successfully made the rescue. The victim, secured in a harness, was hoisted from the trench and placed on a stretcher around 5:00 pm where additional EMS providers continued treatment and was transported to a local trauma center.

Special Thank You to all of those companies that assisted on this incident, as well as The Ludwigs Corner Fire Company for standing by in our district to cover any other calls.

Information from this story was contributed in part by the Chester County Rescue Task Force. Photo courtesy of the Lionville Fire Company and the Chester County Rescue



Want DES to attend your next event?
Does your group want to tour the 9-1-1 Center?



To schedule - 610-344-5093 OR publiceducation@chesco.org

Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc. EMS Awards Banquet

In celebration of National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, the Chester County EMS Council, Inc. held their annual EMS Awards Banquet on May 23, at the Red Clay Room in Kennett Square. Emergency Services personnel from throughout the County gathered to celebrate some of the many success stories where the Chester County EMS system had a positive impact on a negative situation; and to honor our friends and colleagues who have made significant personal contributions to our EMS system.



Following an always popular social hour, the 200 plus attendees were welcomed by Council President Gary Vinnacomb. Department of Emergency Services Director Mike Murphy offered his remarks, and then introduced the night's keynote speaker. We were fortunate this year to have Pennsylvania Department of Health - Bureau of EMS Director Dylan Ferguson join us as the keynote speaker. Chester County Commissioners Michelle Kichline and Kathi Cozzone also offered remarks and presented President Vinnacomb with an EMS Week Proclamation. They also presented a Citation to County Administrator Robert "Bobby" Kagel to coincide with his Margaret Hoover Brigham award.

L to R: Gary Vinnacomb, Ellen Pittman, Alan Haines, Chaz Brogan

With appetites satisfied by the usual delicious meal, the Council, Inc. proceeded to recognize 175 award recipients. An impressive 128 Clinical Save Commendations were awarded for cardiac arrest saves.

In addition, 25 Life Saving Clinical Excellence Commendations and 10 Pre-hospital Delivery Commendations were also awarded.

Individual and agency awards were presented to:

- * *Citizens Award:*
Jeffrey Graver
Sean Conroy
- * *Robert Thompson Memorial Award:*
David Connors
- * *Telecommunicator of the Year:*
Alan Haines
- * *EMS Educator of the Year:*
Catherine Gibbs
- * *BLS Provider of the Year:*
Kourtney Kluczynski
- * *ALS Provider of the Year:*
Earl Bookheimer
- * *Distinquished Provider Award:*
Michael Porter
- * *Distinquished Service Award:*
Minquas Fire Company #2
- * *Nicholas H.S. Campbell Meritorious Service/EMS Leadership Award:*
Kim Holman
- * *President's Award:*
Mallory McNear
- * *Margaret Hoover Brigham Award:*
Robert "Bobby" Kagel



L to R: Chaz Brogan, Bobby Kagel, Judy Kaplan, Bob Hotchkis, Leo Scaccia, Gary Vinnacomb

Spring Firefighter I

On Wednesday, May 8, 2019, the Chester County Public Safety Training Campus held a graduation ceremony for the spring Firefighter I Class.

Thirteen cadets received their Firefighter I certificate from someone they chose to help them celebrate their achievement. Chief Robert Corrigan, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Chief, Philadelphia International Airport was the honored guest speaker. Patrick Hayes, West Bradford Fire Company, was chosen by his classmates as Class Spokesperson.



The following cadets graduated from the spring Fire I program; Amy Bingaman of Minquas Fire Co.; Dillion Copeland of Wagontown Fire Co.; Brian DiFrancesco of Minquas Fire Co.; Will Fester of Honeybrook Fire Co.; Dale Gentry of Honeybrook Fire Co.; Patrick Hayes of West Bradford Fire Co.; Christian Juliana of Goshen Fire Co.; Michael Leidy of Christiana Fire Co. in Lancaster County; Jonathan Porter of Twin Valley Fire Dept.; Cameron Spencer of West Whiteland Fire Co.; Benuel Stoltzfus of Cochranville Fire Co.; Travis Weiler of Twin Valley Fire Co.; and Taylor Weisner of Twin Valley Fire Dept.

Summer Firefighter I

Congratulations to the 12 students who graduated from the summer Firefighter I class. A graduation ceremony was held at the Chester County Public Safety Training Campus with family, friends, and fire company representatives attending to support the new graduates.



The summer Firefighter I class is a rigorous 5 week, Monday-Friday, 8 hours a day class. Compared to the spring and fall classes which are held in the evenings and on weekend for 10-12 weeks, this class is very challenging yet rewarding for the students.

The following cadets graduated from the Summer Firefighter I program; Andrew April of Ogden Fire Co. in Delaware County; Ed Batykefer of East Brandywine Fire Co.; Richard Bochanski of Garrettford-Drexel Hill Fire Co. in Delaware County; Rohit Goswamy of Modena Fire Co.; Alexander Italiano of East Brandywine Fire Co.; Catharine Karnis of East Brandywine Fire Co.; Jack Lawton of Lionville Fire Co.; Christopher Rhodes of Lionville Fire Co.; Mike Sheehan of Goshen Fire Co.; Ryan Tague of Radnor Fire Co. in Delaware County; Anthony Trento of West Bradford Fire Co.; and Michael Washlick of Goshen Fire Co.

Lifesaving Award

At the June meeting of the Chester County FOP Lodge #11, Cindy Amoroso and Tara DiDomenico, both Telecommunicators with the Chester County Department of Emergency Services, were presented with a Lifesaving Award for their actions in saving the life of a cardiac arrest patient.

On April 22, 2019 at 1841 hours, Telecommunicator DiDomenico took a call for a cardiac arrest in progress for a 70 year old male who was doing yard work and collapsed. Tara gave CPR instructions to the caller, Braden Hydutsky. Officer Robert McCarron, West Pikeland PD , and Uwchlan Ambulance were dispatched to the scene by Telecommunicator Amoroso, who kept them informed of the activity at the scene. When Officer McCarron arrived, he instructed the 9-1-1 caller to continue CPR while he placed the AED pads on the victim. The AED advised that a shock was needed. The victim was transported to Paoli Hospital and was discharged home after a full recovery.



Pictured Left to Right - Tara DiDomenico, Cindy Amoroso, Braden Hydutsky, Angela Steel (Homeowner), Glenn Bretz, Westtown -East Goshen Twp. Police Department

Fourth Annual DHS Cadet Camp held at the Training Campus

On June 29, the Department of Emergency Services hosted the Fourth Annual Department of Homeland Security (DHS) – Crime Scene Investigators (CSI) – Cadet Camp at the Chester County Public Safety Training Campus. This is a program that originated through Virginia DHS and was then implemented here by the Philadelphia Office of Department of Homeland Security as a partnership with Nemours/ A.I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, DE. This year 10 youths, all patients at the hospital, participated in the week long CSI Camp. They were provided with a crime scene scenario and over the course of a week, worked with DHS Agents gathering clues which ultimately helped them solve the crime (drug trafficking) and the arrest of the “bad guy”.



Through a series of field trips throughout the week, the kids work side by side with Agents and learn how to gather and process evidence, obtain search and arrest warrants, building entry techniques and arrest procedures.

The culminating event, which is the arrest of the “bad guy,” occurs at the Training Campus as part of a day-long event for the kids and their families, DHS Agents, DES staff, and volunteers from the Chester County Regional Emergency Response Team.

Fire and EMS Strategic Plan Update

The Chester County Fire Chiefs Association, Chester County Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc. and Chester County Fire Police Association in partnership with Chester County Department of Emergency Services started work in early June with Municipal Resources of New Hampshire (MRI) to provide a comprehensive report and a series of workshops addressing future countywide fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) concerns as a planning tool for fire chiefs, EMS chiefs, municipal managers and elected officials. Currently in Chester County, there is little standardization in



deployment and operation of fire and EMS service resources and a declining number of personnel to respond. Response to a major catastrophic event, such as an act of terrorism would require a standardized and coordinated effort in order to save lives. Additionally, both fire and EMS agencies struggle to maintain adequate staffing levels as both volunteer pools and revenue streams continue to decline – negatively impacting their ability to respond to both every day and catastrophic emergencies.

MRI recently completed a second field visit to Chester County. So far the MRI team has spent a total of 7 days in the county. During that time they have conducted numerous interviews with a wide cross section of both internal and external stakeholders including fire and EMS personnel, county and local government elected and appointed officials, and members of the business community. The cooperation and information we have been receiving have both been extraordinary. The next field visit will most likely occur in September and will be over a weekend to provide different time availability for those who would like to attend a meeting with the MRI team.

MRI continues to gather data and information from the county that they will be analyzing moving forward. They are also finalizing three surveys that will be sent out in the near future to various stakeholders seeking their input; this includes citizens of Chester County.

The vision for this program is to evaluate how fire and EMS services are currently being provided within Chester County as compared with other geographical areas of similar size and population, and to provide guidance to address the future of fire and EMS delivery in Chester County based on emerging trends and best practices in fire protection and EMS.

Summer Vehicle Rescue

Chester County Fire Training offered a summer vehicle rescue program. The inaugural program ran from June 17 to 21 at the Public Safety Training Campus and was attended by 10 students from local fire departments.

The week long format allowed students who may not otherwise have been able to attend the evening and weekend course to complete the requirements for both the Awareness and Operations level of Basic Vehicle Rescue, as well as sit for the state exam.

Attendees for the inaugural course included:

Josh Adams, Union Fire Co.; Zach Turner, West Bradford Fire Co.; Ethan Lange, West Bradford Fire Co.; Anthony Trento, West Bradford Fire Co.; Gerardo Jimenez, West Bradford Fire Co.; David Keller, Phoenixville Fire Dept.; Patrick Hayes, West Bradford Fire Co.; Miranda Kempf, Union Fire Co.; David Weldon, Newtown Square Fire Co.; Matt Schroeder, Amity Fire Co.; Matt Boniface, Thorndale Fire Co.



Junior Camp 2019

Junior Public Safety Camp was held the week of June 24 with cadets from Chester County and other counties participating.

During the week, the cadets had the opportunity to experience the different disciplines in emergency services including fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services. In addition to presentations given by professionals in the industry and instructors, Cadets also participated in a wide variety of hands-on activities such as knot tying and working with fire extinguishers.



On Wednesday, the Cadets took a field trip to New York City which included visiting the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and the FDNY 343 Fireboat.

After a fun-filled week, the Cadets graduated on Friday. There were over 200 people in attendance including 11 emergency services agencies, parents, friends, and family attended to support the graduating Cadets.

Congratulations to Lauren Dymond from Twin Valley Fire Department and Michael Struab from Oakmont Fire Company, Delaware County, who were named the Camp Cadets.

Chester County Rescue Task Force

In the afternoon of May 28, 2019, numerous strong thunderstorms rolled across Pennsylvania. Shortly after 6:00 pm, Chester County 9-1-1 began receiving reports of storm damage and a possible tornado near the Berks/Chester County border, in the area of Morgantown.



Twin Valley Fire Department (Station 69) began getting inundated with emergency calls for debris in the roadway, fire alarms and residential rescues. Chief 69 quickly requested additional resources to start moving into the area. Those resources included additional EMS units and the Collapse Rescue Team from the Chester County Rescue Task Force (CCRTF). Units were dispatched to a staging area at Station 69 and were deployed from there. The CCRTF team was comprised of Fame Fire Company (Station 53), Lionville Fire Company (Station 47) and Valley Forge Fire Company (Station 68). Additional incident support personnel and equipment from Berks and Chester Counties were also staged and helped to coordinate the response efforts.

Twenty CCRTF personnel, including two structures specialists and five technical search specialists, assembled and were given assignments to conduct wide area searches and structural assessments in several neighborhoods and industrial parks. More than 50 structures were assessed, and several people were displaced from their homes due to damage. Damages ranged from shingles and siding being blown off, storm debris through roofs, tree limbs on houses and cars, to entire side walls of occupied dwellings being torn off along with roofs. Some outbuildings/sheds were also flattened. Several commercial/industrial buildings and countless vehicles also received damaged.

Support Continues



Two days later, on May 30, 2019, Chester County Rescue Task Force was requested around 7:00am to assist the Montgomery County Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team in the Upper Salford area of Montgomery County. The Montgomery USAR Team was activated the previous evening for strong storms that swept through the area. Fourteen volunteer members from Fame Fire Company and Valley Forge Fire Company assembled with short notice and deployed to assist.

Upon arriving in Montgomery County, the Chester County USAR team was briefed and given areas to search. The team's Collapse Rescue Specialists and Technical Search Specialists were divided into four search teams. Chester County Deputy Director of Fire Services, Beau Crowding, was also with the team. The USAR team worked for several hours and successfully completed all of their assignments. The team returned to Chester County late in the afternoon.

This was the first South Eastern Pennsylvania Regional USAR deployment for our USAR group. Many years of training, planning and dedication have been put in to ensure that we are at the top of our game when the call for help comes!

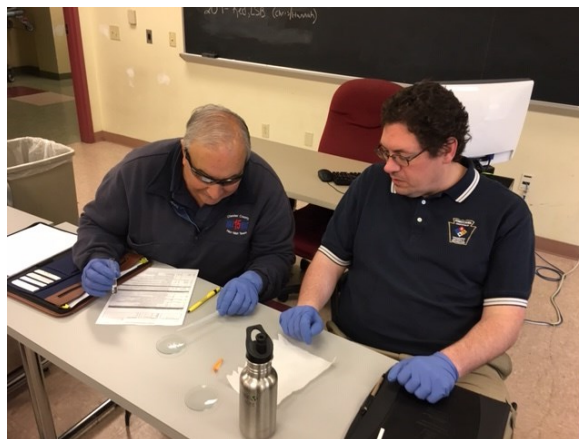
Finally, on June 5, 2019 Lionville Fire Company (Station 47) and Uwchlan Ambulance Corps (Station 87) were dispatched for a rescue at a construction site on Norwood Road in Uwchlan Township. See Article "First Due Trench Rescue" written by Lionville Fire Company.

These incidents are just more examples of successful outcomes due to regional cooperation and coordination, and emphasizes the importance of getting the specialized people with the specialized training and specialized equipment moving as early as possible.

Bill Cummings CCRTF

Hazmat Team Training

Members of the Chester County Hazardous Materials Response Team (CCHMRT) partnered with the Coatesville Fire Department and Coatesville EMS on a drill involving simulated hazardous materials in March 2019. The scenario included a chemical incident with multiple victims. The CCHMRT prepared two entry teams in chemical protective clothing. The team also worked with fire department personnel to setup a decon line. Entry teams conducted scene hazard evaluation, recon, air monitoring, and victim extrication to the decon area. Coatesville EMS provided patient evaluation and transport. After conclusion of the drill Fire, EMS and CCHMRT personnel convened at Coatesville Fire Department Station 41 for a hot wash.



In April, CCHMRT participated in a hazardous chemical identification class held at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Center. This was one of several opportunities throughout the year when CCHMRT personnel partner and train with other Hazmat Team personnel from the South Eastern PA region. The course was designed to allow technicians to utilize "tools of the trade" to identify unknown chemicals. Members also had the opportunity to react certain chemicals, in a controlled environment, to simulate explosions. The CCHMRT is fortunate to have dedicated members strongly committed to advancing their knowledge in the hazmat arena.

During one of the July team trainings, CCHMRT toured the Aqua PA water treatment facility in Schuylkill Township. This tour is part of the team's ongoing efforts to routinely visit high-hazard sites within the county in order to be prepared and meet industry contacts before a real incident happens.



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destraining.chesco.org moved to an updated platform in early June. With the change all users will be required to create a new user profile. This process should take no more than five minutes. We please ask that you take the time to create a new profile now. Questions should be emailed to pstc@chesco.org

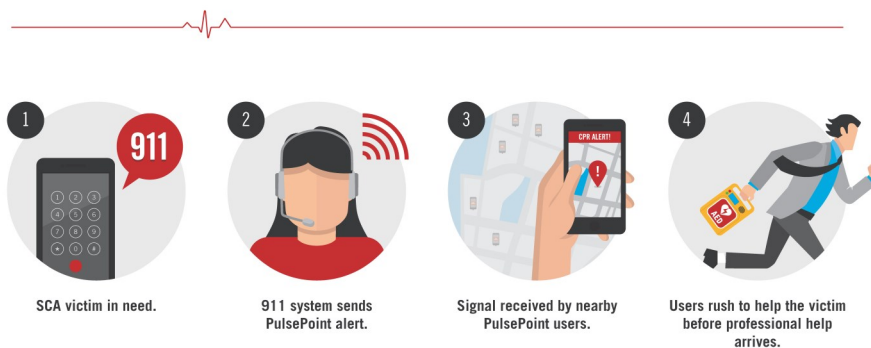


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SCA KILLS ALMOST
1,000 **†**/DAY
IN THE U.S.

NEARLY **60%** OF SCA
VICTIMS **DON'T GET CPR**
UNTIL PROFESSIONAL
HELP ARRIVES.

13M AMERICANS ARE
CPR TRAINED AND
CERTIFIED ANNUALLY.

THE U.S. SURVIVAL
RATE FOR SCA IS **11%**
WE CAN DO BETTER

CALL 911
PUSH HARD AND FAST
IN THE CENTER OF THE
CHEST TO THE BEAT
OF "STAYIN' ALIVE"
(100X/MINUTE).

Early CPR and rapid defibrillation before an emergency team arrives can boost survival by 50%.