



Roanoke Emergency Medical Services Inc. Volunteering since 1928

For Immediate Release

Roanoke City Volunteer Rescue Squad receives grant for Cardiac Heart Monitor, designed to better diagnose heart attacks

Roanoke Emergency Medical Services has received a Rescue Squad Assistant Grant from the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services towards the purchase of a new Heart monitor designed to better diagnose heart attacks.

¹The study from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute reports 1,255,000 new and recurring heart attacks happen each year. A heart attack occurs when blood flow to a section of heart muscle becomes blocked. If the flow of blood isn't restored quickly, the section of heart muscle becomes damaged from lack of oxygen and begins to die. Therefore the ²American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association have set guidelines for reperfusion of the damaged areas in 90 minutes or less

Volunteers will soon be able to use state of technology, now available in newer heart monitors, to locate the telling signs someone is having an active heart attack. This is done by taking 12 different electrical pictures of the heart. Once the distinct signs are found of an active heart attack, the volunteer EMS providers will notify the emergency room doctors of their finding even before starting transport. This will alert the Heart Catheterization team so they may start preparing. Over all this will shorten the average lifesaving treatment time by 20 minutes.

Roanoke Emergency Medical Service and Roanoke Fire/EMS department have worked closely together to ensure all responding ambulances in the City are equipped with this new technology. This grant will bring us one set closer to reaching our this goal.

The grant does not cover the full cost of the new monitor, REMS volunteers must raise \$6000 to cover the training and unfunded portion of the grant. Volunteers are desperately seeking donations or sponsors for this project. For more information on the new heart monitor, or volunteering please visit www.roanokeems.org or contact us at 344-6256 .

Roanoke is home to the 1st all volunteer Rescue Squad in the world and after 82 years is still providing emergency care and transport to the citizens and visitors to the city of Roanoke.

¹ National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Atherosclerotic Risk in Communities [ARIC] Study

² Joint American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association guidelines for patients with STEMI call for door-to-balloon times of 90 minutes or less