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## **Rowlett Fire Rescue Receives American Heart Association *Mission: Lifeline EMS Silver Recognition Award***

**ROWLETT, TX** – Rowlett Fire Rescue has received the American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® EMS Silver Award, which recognizes our commitment and success in implementing specific quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who suffer a severe heart attack known as a STEMI (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction).

“Rowlett Fire Rescue is dedicated to making our EMS among the best in the country, and the American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline program is helping us accomplish that by implementing processes for improving STEMI systems of care with the goal of improving the quality of care for all STEMI patients,” said Neal Howard, Fire Chief. “We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in emergency medical care for STEMI patients.”

Annually, almost 300,000 people experience a STEMI, which is a type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart and requires timely treatment. It is critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible to the affected area of the heart, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication, to prevent death. Tragically, a significant number of patients do not receive prompt reperfusion therapy, restoring the blood flow to the heart.

The American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® program seeks to save lives by closing the gaps that separate STEMI patients from timely access to appropriate treatments. Emergency Medical System (EMS) providers are vital to the success of this program, and are recognized for their efforts in improving STEMI systems of care and improving the quality of life for these patients. EMS agencies provide education in STEMI identification and access to 12-lead ECG machines, following protocols derived from American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology guidelines. The correct tools and training allow EMS providers to rapidly identify the STEMI, promptly notify the medical center, and receive early response from the awaiting hospital personnel. Agencies that receive the Mission: Lifeline Silver award have demonstrated at least 75 percent compliance for each required achievement measure for the entire year, and treat at least eight STEMI patients for the year.

“We commend Rowlett Fire Rescue EMS for this achievement award, which reflects a significant commitment to improve the quality of care for heart attack patients,” said A. Gray Ellrodt, MD, Chair of the Mission: Lifeline committee and Chief of Medicine at the Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, Mass. “All too many heart attack patients in the United States still fail to receive appropriate treatment for their life-threatening condition within the recommended timeframes. We must all continue this important work to streamline and coordinate regional systems of care to save lives and prevent complications.”

Rowlett Fire Rescue provides emergency and non-emergency services to an area of 21 square miles, with a residential population of 57,703 and growing. We have 72 firefighters with 23 on shift, which staff four strategically located stations on a 24-hour basis. Rowlett Fire Rescue responds to over 5,000 incidents annually.

Rowlett Fire Rescue was created in the early 1950’s and purchased the first fire engine in 1955. Before 1979, it was a volunteer department. In the spring of 1979, three paid personnel were hired. Rowlett Fire has now been a fully paid, professional department for over 30 years.

Rowlett Fire Rescue's primary focus is a commitment to delivering the highest quality, most effective fire suppression, emergency medical services, and emergency management to the citizens of Rowlett.

Common emergency and non-emergency areas include

- Building fires or fire alarms
- Vehicle accidents involving injury or extrication
- Injured and sick citizens
- Hazardous materials incidents
- Animal rescue
- Assistance for the disabled and elderly
- Installation of smoke detectors and batteries
- Community education

***Rowlett Fire Rescue Mission Statement***

***To Protect the Lives and Property of the Community We Serve from Fire or Disaster and to Minimize Suffering and Injury, from Accident or Illness.***

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