

KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

KFD welcomes new assistant to station



KEIZERTIMES/Lauren Murphy

LUCAS, is a chest compression machine system that can perform CPR.

By LAUREN MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Last month Keizer Fire District (KFD) introduced the newest member of its team, LUCAS; a chest compression system to assist in calls involving CPR.

LUCAS, which stands for Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System, is a piece of equipment that costs nearly \$16,000 and was purchased with money from the 2015 Equipment Bond.

“It encircles the chest of a cardiac arrest victim and utilizes a “plunger” to provide chest compressions at the correct depth and rate,” said Brian Butler, who is the Division Chief of Operations for KFD.

“By utilizing LUCAS, we will no longer have to send personnel to the (emergency department) to provide chest compressions.”

— Brian Butler,
Division Chief of Operations
Keizer Fire District

pressions for up to 45 minutes; there is a second battery in case a patient needs more time, but Butler said that is not usually the case.

“The machine auto-corrects for chest size and resistance providing for the correct depth of compressions,” Butler said. This makes it more accurate and helpful than human compressions.

In addition to adjusting to chest size and resistance, it also provides continuous chest compressions – resulting in better perfusion of blood to critical organs like the brain and heart.

“We also have to move cardiac arrest patients several times. From where they are found to

where we are going to try to revive them, from where we try to revive them to the medic unit and from the medic unit to the emergency department,” Butler said.

LUCAS gives compressions while a patient is being moved: down stairs, in an elevator, or anywhere else that would result in less than ideal conditions for human CPR.

“Currently, a normal medical call gets five responders while a cardiac arrest call gets eight,” Butler said.

With a LUCAS stationed on all three Keizer Fire ambulances, less responders are required for a cardiac arrest calls.

“This can also free up other firefighters and EMTs to assist in planning for and moving the patient, providing comfort to family members on scene or starting IV’s, administering medications, intubating, etc.” he said.

When a cardiac arrest patient is being transported to the hospital they send five firefighters: one to drive, one to be the paramedic-in-charge, one

McNary hosts annual Bazaar



KEIZERTIMES/Lauren Murphy

The annual McNary Holiday Bazaar helped hundreds of community members get an early start on their holiday shopping.



KEIZERTIMES/Lauren Murphy

LEFT: Noah Kuhl, a former McNary student, sells his own disc golf equipment. RIGHT: Victoria Fleming (left) and Shelby Boothe sell arts and crafts with their business, The 2 Of Us Creations.

ventilating the patient and two alternating chest compressions.

“By utilizing LUCAS, we will no longer have to send personnel to the (emergency department) to provide chest compressions,” Butler said.

The benefits of only sending three firefighters are twofold. It allows two firemen to return to service and be ready for another calls and excludes the exhausting and dangerous job of doing CPR in a traveling medic unit.

“First, these personnel can return to service and be available for other calls for service. And second, having two firefighters standing in the back of a medic unit doing CPR while the medic unit is traveling down the road is dangerous and physically exhausting,” Butler said. “LUCAS eliminates this dangerous burden on our firefighters.”

Salem Health has utilized the LUCAS machine as well, which helps the transferring the patient

in a more seamless manner.

LUCAS is intended for adult patients – though Butler said if the device fits around the patient LUCAS is safe to use.

Just like human CPR, there is about a 30 percent chance of broken or separated ribs with LUCAS.

“The patient may still experience some separated or broken ribs, but this is in no way a reason not to do CPR on a person without a pulse,” Butler said.



Get your prescription
even if you forget your wallet.



\$0 copays on select prescription drugs: It's on the list of ways we put members first.

It'd take an entire book to list the ways we put members first. As it happens, we only have room in this ad for one. If you have a PacificSource health plan, you can get select preventive prescription drugs without a copay. Making for a transaction that's entirely wallet-optional.

Why not let us put you first, too?

PacificSourceMembersFirst.com • 877-281-2124

Members first



Come See the Finest in Senior Living
CALL (503) 390-1300

The Village at Keizer Ridge
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE

1165 McGee Ct NE • Keizer, OR • VillageAtKeizerRidge.com