



News Release

Date: February 27, 2013
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(TVF&R to Encourage Legislators to Support Bill Requiring High School Students to Learn CPR)

What: Public Hearing on Senate Bill 275
When: Thursday, February 28th, 1:00 PM
Where: Senate Education Committee, Hearing Room C
Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

A public hearing on SB275, a bill that will require all high school students be trained in CPR, is scheduled for the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee on Thursday, February 28. At 1:00 pm legislators will hear from medical professionals, EMS officials, and Valley Catholic students trained in CPR. In November 2011, TVF&R and Valley Catholic Middle School implemented the first partnership in Oregon between a fire department and school to teach hands-only CPR to the community. Since that time, 150 8th grade students from Valley Catholic have taught hands-only CPR to over 2,100 community members. One of those community members was Vancouver resident, Angela Winemeuller, who had the chance to render aid to a cardiac patient in her hometown on February 24th, ONE DAY after learning hands-only CPR at a speech tournament at Valley Catholic.

Also testifying during the 1:00 pm hour will be Raoul Meekcoms, a cardiac arrest survivor, and his wife, Sandy, who performed hands-only CPR before Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue paramedics arrived to provide advanced life support care. (A compressed version of the 9-1-1 tape is included with this press release.)

Annually, over 300,000 people experience a cardiac arrest. Many die before ever reaching a hospital due to not receiving timely CPR. Sudden cardiac arrest can strike anyone, anywhere, and when it does, a patient's survival depends on the people around them. When provided quickly, CPR doubles the chance of survival for a cardiac patient.

"In TVF&R's service area, cardiac survival rates exceed the national average, ranging between 11% and 23% for the past several years. Fire Chief Mike Duyck states, "I attribute this, not only to our department's investment in paramedics and advanced cardiac drugs and equipment on every unit, but our community's demonstrated willingness to perform hands-only CPR during a cardiac event." Duyck added, "Passing SB275 will bring more than 45,000 trained lifesavers to our community every year."

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