
Firefighter Michael Ambrose, Life Saving Award

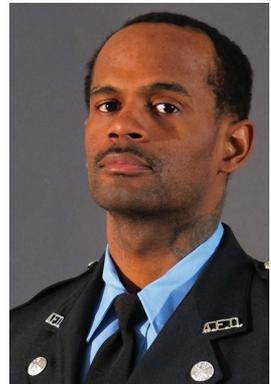
Firefighter Joseph Porcelli, Life Saving Award

Firefighter Michael Lyons, Life Saving Award

On April 23, around 7:30 a.m., members of Engine 207, including Firefighters Michael Ambrose, Joseph Porcelli, and Michael Lyons responded to a call at MacArthur Elementary School for reports of an child passed out in the cafeteria. Just before the firefighters arrived on scene new information came in stating, "possible pediatric cardiac arrest with CPR in progress."

With this new development, Firefighters Ambrose, Porcelli and Lyons used the few moments before they arrived at the school to coordinate their emergency medical response. Upon arrival, the firefighters were able to quickly locate the victim and determine life-saving procedures were needed.

Firefighter Porcelli began performing compressions on the child while Firefighter Ambrose worked to clear his airway. Firefighter Lyons prepared the automated external defibrillator, AED, which is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias and is able to treat them through defibrillation. Once ready, Firefighter Lyons used the AED to analyze the child. The machine responded "No Shock" meaning there was no significant heartbeat detected and the use of the AED would be ineffective. The child did not have a pulse. Undeterred, the firefighters continued compressions and other life-saving measures. After four additional rounds of 50 compressions, a weak pulse was detected.



At this time, medics arrived and were given a quick brief as to the situation. The firefighters continued to assist the medics as they prepared the child to be transported to Inova Alexandria Hospital. The child's mother had also arrived at the school and was updated on his condition. Firefighters led her to the cafeteria where she was able to accompany her child to the hospital.

This child had a significant cardiac medical history. The quick actions and life-saving measures taken by these firefighters undoubtedly saved his life. For this we award Firefighter Michael Ambrose, Firefighter Joseph Porcelli, and Firefighter Michael Lyons the Life Saving Award.