

PRESS RELEASE

Grand Haven Charter Township
13300 168th Avenue
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Rich Szczepanek, Grand Haven Township Fire/Rescue Chief

Phone: 616.842.5988

Fax: 616.842.9419

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWNSHIP CERTIFIED TO BASIC LIFE SUPPORT LEVEL

Grand Haven Township, Michigan, December 16, 2005.

Throughout the Tri-Cities area, the fire departments are all certified at the Medical First Responder level. But, the Grand Haven Charter Township Fire\Rescue department just raised the bar by becoming the first department certified at the Basic Life Support level.

“Grand Haven Township is continually trying to improve the level of service that we offer to area residents,” Fire\Rescue Chief Rich Szczepanek said. “By becoming certified at an EMT level, we are simply following a philosophy that has become deeply ingrained in the Township.”

What this means is that GHT will always have an emergency medical technician (EMT) responding to medical emergencies in the Township. These EMTs will have the ability to administer an epiPen to counteract anaphylaxis (*i.e., a severe allergic response to specific triggers such as foods, medications, insect venom, or latex*) after consultation with Medical Control. Additionally, GHT will carry equipment to splint femur (*i.e., thigh bone*) fractures.

“The department was able to accomplish this upgrade in service with no increase in manpower and only a small investment in equipment,” Szczepanek continued. “Currently all of the

full-time and many of the part-time staff are state-certified EMTs or paramedics.”

Training is one of the highest priorities for the Fire/Rescue department. With a majority of all emergency events being medical or rescue related, there is a greater emphasis on emergency medical training. “Over the coming months, the Township will provide opportunities for all of the part-time fire/rescue to also become certified EMTs,” Szczepanek explained. “Knowledge and training are the best tools to ensure that we can properly respond to any emergency.”

“Since an EMT will respond to any medical emergency and since township fire/rescue staff are normally the first on scene, this upgrade in certification has the potential to save lives,” Szczepanek concluded.

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