

Goodyear (AZ) Fire Department

In 2008, the Goodyear Fire Department and West Valley Hospital developed the “Door to Balloon” Time Reduction Project to increase patient survivability and improve health and wellness of acute heart attack patients. The transmission of 12-Lead EKG in the field and reduction of “door-to-balloon” times below the national stated average of 90 minutes are the core elements of the program.

When a patient experiences chest pains, a 12 lead EKG is initiated on the scene by the Goodyear Fire EMT’s and Paramedics. The 12 lead EKG is immediately transmitted by a Philips MRx heart monitor and a cell phone, which is part of the paramedic’s equipment, to West Valley Hospital. This pairing sends the 12 lead information directly to the emergency department via Bluetooth technology. An ED nurse receives the 12 lead EKG from the paramedics to start a “chest pain rapid response” and the cardiac response team at the hospital is initiated – all done before the patient arrives at the ED.

By working collaboratively, the Goodyear Fire Department and West Valley Hospital are able to positively impact patients’ lives by reducing the amount of time it takes to open their occluded cardiac vessel. While the national standard is 90 minutes, the Goodyear Fire Department and West Valley Hospital have consistently lowered that number to an average of 74 minutes.