

Friendswood (TX) Volunteer Fire Department (2011 CFSI Award Recipient)(Combination)

The Friendswood, Texas Volunteer Fire Department serves a 21 square mile area with an estimated population of 29,000. Staffing four stations with more than 90 volunteers and a paid day crew on duty during the week. The Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department is committed to delivering high quality pre-hospital patient care and community-wide emergency response. To help improve the recovery rate of patients after an emergency, Friendswood uses cutting edge technologies such as the Induced Cooling by EMS (I.C.E) protocol to reduce the effects of Post Resuscitation Encephalopathy. After a thorough study found limited side effects from the use of induced hypothermia on Post Resuscitation of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) patients, the Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department developed a comprehensive protocol using induced hypothermia as part of a multifaceted approach to optimize neurologic resuscitation on ROSC patients.

Another proactive enhancement initiated by Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department has significantly reduced the amount of time required for patient preparation by training medics to perform at least three critical first steps in cardiac patient care. Having medics start double-lumen IV catheters, administer Heparin and send 12-Lead ECGs via telemetry all while in the field, the catheterization team is able to begin definitive, life-saving treatment sooner. The Friendswood Volunteer Fire Department is also taking a leadership role in emergency disaster planning by participating in and sponsoring conferences and drills in disaster management. The Department is actively engaged in community activities that promote public safety and injury prevention including free immunization clinics and community CPR training.