

Sandy Springs (GA) Fire Rescue Department

The Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department serves a community of 98,000. The city's government leaders consider public safety a top priority and strongly advocate for the latest advances to enable delivery of the highest quality care to the citizens of Sandy Springs. To gauge the progress of the Sandy Springs Fire Rescue programs, the city leaders compared local statistics against national averages for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests and found better than average results across the board. The initiatives that earned Sandy Springs Fire Rescue high marks include training and awareness in CPR and AED use.

Sandy Springs Fire Rescue has focused its efforts on the care of cardiac arrest patients, emphasizing approaches that enable patients to resume pre-arrest quality of life neurologically intact. Among these approaches is inducing hypothermia on cardiac arrest patients as a "neuro-protective treatment strategy." The Sandy Springs Fire Rescue personnel are trained to provide hypothermia treatment to patients in the field to minimize the chances of neurological injury and improve the outcomes for the patients. Implementation of a state-of-the-art regional 911 center has helped reduce call processing and response times, further reinforcing the city's commitment to excellent emergency care for area residents. Sandy Springs has also emphasized CPR training for bystanders. Since 2007, the department has trained more than 4,500 residents in CPR and AED uses, and placed more than 154 AEDs in the city. Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Department recognizes the benefits of community involvement in keeping their residents safe.