



## Larkspur Adds Mechanical CPR Devices *\$44K Federal Grant Adds to “Chain of Survival”*

2/8/21

Larkspur CO – A \$44,212 federal grant will give Larkspur’s emergency medical personnel a new tool to help cardiac arrest patients: an automated CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) device. The grant, distributed through Colorado’s Department of Local Affairs, was used to purchase three “LUCAS” Chest Compression System devices. After being positioned on a patient the device can provide uninterrupted CPR for up to 45 minutes. “Managing a cardiac arrest patient can be one the most physically and psychologically challenging calls we respond to,” says Fire Chief Stuart Mills. “Providing high-quality chest compressions is very important but even the fittest person can tire quickly while doing CPR. The LUCAS device can deliver effective compressions non-stop throughout the entire call,” Mills adds. The device frees up human hands that can then devote themselves to the many other needs of these critical patients.

The battery-operated device is placed over a patient’s chest and attached to a brace that is put under the person’s back. Crews are currently training with the devices and will put them in service when instructional sessions are complete. Firefighters still encourage everyone to learn CPR and to become part of what they call “the chain of survival.” If someone’s heart has stopped, immediately starting CPR while emergency crews are responding becomes an important link in that chain.

The Larkspur Fire Protection District covers 109 square miles in southern Douglas County and serves approximately 7000 residents. It operates two, staffed fire stations, with six firefighters on duty 24/7.

###