Are more Paramedics Elemental or Detrimental?

Lessons learned from an ALS Expansion Program

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ABQ Fire

- ~700 Uniformed members, 220 ALS providers
- 182sq ml response area/~900,000 pop
- ~81,000 Calls for service 2012, >80% EMS
- MPDS-EMS 20% D/E, 36% C/D/E coded calls ‘12
- ALS Fire-based 1st Response- Non-Transport
ABQ Fire

- 22 Stations
- 19 ALS Rescue ambulances
- 22 BLS Engines
- 7 BLS Ladders
- 3 Squads- 2 HazMat, 1 HTR
- 4 Battalion Chief Officers
- 1 EMS QA PM Captain
ABQ Fire

• Dual EMS Response
  • ALS or BLS Fire, ALS Transport Agency- AAS
What’s the EMS Norm?

• Best I can tell its like politics- all local!
  • Eagles survey on ALS response across country recently
  • Answers all over the place!
  • 2 P’s, P & B/I, 2 P’s on “ALS” calls, 1-2 P’s & 3-4 EMT’s on ALS Engine Comp, 2 P’s and EMT on ambulance, P QRV, 2 P’s & 2 EMT’s on ambulance, 4-6 P’s & 2-4 EMT’s on 9E’s
  • NFPA 1710- 5.3.3.3.4- ALS response 2 P’s/2 B’s
ABQ ALS Expansion

- Goal - All Engines & Rescues be ALS staffed
- Want to better distribute and utilize PM pool
- Want to insure ALS KNOWLEDGE on all calls
- Want to build ALS redundancy for each response district
- WANT TO PROVIDE THE BEST CARE TO OUR CUSTOMERS- THE PUBLIC!!
What it is NOT

- Is saying that our system needs fewer Medics
- LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN W/ CAPS LOCK BOLD!
- NOT SAYING THAT WE NEED FEWER MEDICS
CIRCLE OF TRUST

YOU
Like Goldilocks…

• ABQ’s PM numbers are just right for cardiac arrest!
Cardiac arrest survival depends on Medic experience. Sayre et al. Acad Emerg Medicine, May ‘06.

- Showed % survival to D/C has a sweet spot relative to annual cases/yr per Medic
  - 1.16/yr = 5% survival
  - 2.62/yr = 30% survival
  - 4.68/yr = 27% survival
- AFD for 2012 = 3.04/Medic/yr - Just Right!
ABQ ALS Expansion

- But we need more Medics on scene Doc!
- Get more things done quicker, with fewer errors!
- Are we sure about that?
ABQ ALS Expansion

  - 1537 “time critical” cases
  - Mixed crews- 15.54m scene times
  - ALS crew- 16.92m scene times
ABQ ALS Expansion

**Impact of Ambulance Crew Configuration on Simulated Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation**

Ryan Bayley, EMT-P, BA, Matthew Weinger, MD, Stephen Meador, EMT-P, Corey Slovis, MD

- Prehospital Emergency Care, Vol. 12, 2008
- 2 grps of 15- P/P and P/B
- 2 P grp
  - more errors and no quicker w/ most interventions
  - Quicker ETI only event of note
ABQ ALS Expansion

• Goal- All Engines & Rescues be ALS staffed
  • The “HOW?” is the sticky wicket.
  • Each system will determine what works best for itself
  • BUT use pt outcomes and data to drive decisions
  • Labor & Management get to tackle the details
  • Who to what seat?
ABQ ALS Expansion Goals

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Thank You

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