Chandler responds to a changing public safety and healthcare landscape

Roles and responsibilities evolve as community expectations grow and training expands capabilities.

On June 22, 1937, the first meeting of the Chandler Fire Department was held. Initially staffed by volunteers, the Department’s first paid Chief was hired in 1953. In 1975 the Department added advanced emergency medical care by training three firefighters as paramedics.

The Department has evolved since 1937 to become an internationally accredited agency that responds to a variety of calls with 12 front line apparatus and 187 line Firefighters. The department is trained, equipped and staffed with 131 paramedics to respond to medical emergencies, provide preventative health education and participate in community health clinics.

As the demand for services has changed, the name “Fire” by itself no longer fully describes the services provided. On July 27, 2014, the Chandler Fire Department became the Chandler Fire, Health and Medical Department.

This brochure explains why this new name is appropriate for our ever-evolving Department; a progressive, internationally accredited organization with a distinguished history of service to the community.

Sincerely,
Chief Jeff Clark

Chandler City Council
Front Row, from left: Councilmember Trinity Donovan, Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, and Councilmember Nora Ellen.
Back row, from left: Councilmember Jeff Weninger, Councilmember Jack Sellers, Councilmember Kevin Hartke, and Vice Mayor Rick Heumann
Fire
The mission is to prepare for and respond to incidents involving fire and other emergencies, including hazardous material and technical rescue. To fulfill this mission we staff, train and deploy personnel to mitigate a variety of emergency situations. The Department also has a Fire Prevention Division to conduct inspections and support programs designed to prevent fires from ever occurring.

What the department does to prevent fires, fight fires and respond to emergencies in the community:

Emergency Response
- Fire Response
- Technical Rescue
- Water Rescue
- Confine Space Rescue
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Hazardous Material Incidents
- Fire Alarm Activations

Prevention Activities
- Fire Prevention Education
- Fire Investigations
- Fire Inspection
- Plan Review
- Smoke Alarm Program
- Fire Safety Inspected and Educated Program

Health
The mission is preparedness and response for widespread health emergencies; provide protection and public education activities related to community health issues. These programs are designed to prevent injuries, promote water safety, monitor wellbeing and teach neighborhood-based emergency response and basic first aid.

What the department does to support the overall health of the residents:

Current Prevention Programs
- Car Seat Installation and Inspection
- Bicycle Safety Program
- Drowning Prevention Program
- Hands-Only CPR Instruction
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training
- Crisis Intervention Specialist Response Team
- Blood Pressure Check
- Blood Glucose Check
- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Program in City Facilities
- Bioterrorism
- Chemical emergencies
- Natural disaster
- Severe weather
- Mass Casualty Response

Emerging Prevention Programs
- Community Clinics
- Treat and Refer Program
- Community Integrated Paramedic Response
- Priority Dispatch Response

Medical
The mission is to provide on-scene medical assessment of citizens in various stages of distress, provide treatment and transport patients to care facilities if necessary. Most of the Department’s 9-1-1 responses are for medical emergencies. Once on scene, a Paramedic level assessment is completed and a decision is made to either transport the patient to the ER or treat and leave the patient at home.

What the department does to provide optimal medical response, treatment and transportation:

Training
- Every firefighter must be EMT certified.
- 70% of Firefighters are certified Paramedics

Public/Private Partnerships
- PMT Ambulance – Each ambulance staffed 24/7 with a CFH&M Paramedic
- Dignity Health – Chandler Regional Medical Center provides medical direction to CFH&M paramedics
- Research for Life - Provides hands on training for critical Paramedic skills

Data Collection & Studies
- CFH&M shares data with the State for analysis that drives training standards and treatment protocols
- The Department participates in local and regional studies on traumatic brain injury, stroke, cardiac arrest and dysrhythmias to better patient outcomes
- Certified Premier EMS agency through the Arizona Department of Health Services