

VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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October 4, 2016

Board of Directors
Ventura County Fire Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT:

Receive and File Presentation on the Ventura County Fire Protection District PulsePoint Smartphone Application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file presentation on the Ventura County Fire Protection District PulsePoint Smartphone Application.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACTS:

There is no additional fiscal impact associated with this Board letter.

DISCUSSION:

The Ventura County Fire Protection District ("Fire District"), in partnership with the Ventura County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA), is pleased to announce its participation in PulsePoint, a mobile application (app). This project was initiated by Supervisor Kathy Long to increase citizen awareness of cardiac arrest and enable the public to provide potentially life-saving CPR. The app is linked directly to the Fire District's Ventura County Regional Dispatch (VCRD) system, which handles fire and emergency medical dispatching for all fire and ambulance resources in Ventura County.

The free app is intended to connect trained lifesavers, who may already be nearby, with people who need immediate help when seconds count the most. Targeted toward off-duty rescue professionals and citizens trained in CPR, the PulsePoint app alerts

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subscribers when a sudden cardiac arrest occurs in a nearby public place, directs them to the patient location, and provides CPR guidance while emergency responders are en route to the call.


The app also notifies subscribers of the closest available Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). PulsePoint is not limited to emergency responders or those with official CPR certification. It can be used by anyone who has been trained in CPR.

Another benefit of PulsePoint is its ability to display VCRD's active and recent incidents, as well as incidents for numerous other fire and emergency response agencies. This helps create a way for the public to become more aware of active Fire District incidents.

In Ventura County, there are six fire agencies and three ambulance providers serving the more than 823,000 people that reside in the area. On average, VCRD answers more than 600 daily calls for service; more than 70 percent are for emergency medical services.

The free PulsePoint app is available for iPhone and Android and can be downloaded from the iTunes Store and Google Play as "VCRD-Ventura County Regional Dispatch."

The County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel have reviewed this Board letter. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 389-9704.



Mark Lorenzen
Fire Chief

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