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PRESS RELEASE

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Miami Beach Fire Department Sets the Gold Standard *-- Awarded Prestigious Award for Improving STEMI Systems of Care --*

Miami Beach, FL – For the second consecutive year, the Miami Beach Fire Department (MBFD) has been awarded the Mission: Lifeline® EMS Award by the American Heart Association. This prestigious award is only presented to fire rescue departments that have attained the Lifeline EMS award for two years in a row. In 2015, MBFD earned the Silver Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

“It is a tremendous honor to be recognized with such a prestigious award,” said Miami Beach Fire Chief Virgil Fernandez. “Heart attacks are the leading cause of death for adults in the U.S, and providing fast response times saves lives. I am extremely proud that our department is taking proactive steps to ensure positive outcomes for those who suffer a heart attack in our city.”

Every year more than 250,000 people experience a STEMI, or ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction, type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow that can be deadly. In order to prevent death, it is critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-bursting medication. A significant number do not receive prompt treatments. Mission: Lifeline seeks to save lives by closing the gaps that separate STEMI Patients from timely access to appropriate treatments.

The American Heart Association recognized MBFD for their efforts in improving STEMI systems of care and improving the quality of life for these patients. Agencies that receive the Mission: Lifeline Gold award have demonstrated at least 75 percent compliance for each required achievement measure for the entire year, and treated at least eight STEMI patients for the last two full years. The American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline program helps hospitals and emergency medical services develop systems of care that follow proven standards and procedures for STEMI patients. This program works by mobilizing teams across the continuum of care to implement American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology clinical treatment guidelines.

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