

Off-Duty Petaluma Firefighter Saves 8 Year Old Boys Life

Last Saturday afternoon, April 13th, at a Rohnert Park baseball game, an 8-year-old player was struck in the center of his chest by a pitch. He took several steps towards first base and suddenly collapsed. His heart had stopped beating normally and he went into both respiratory and cardiac arrest. Two spectators in the stands, who happen to be paramedics, responded to the emergency and came to his aid. Someone called 911 while the two paramedics performed CPR for five minutes prior to the arrival of the first emergency responders. They arrived with a defibrillator and shocked the young player's heart. He regained a pulse and began breathing. He was quickly transported to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital where he was further stabilized and regained consciousness, even asking about the outcome of the game. He was later flown to Children's Hospital in Oakland for further care.



The two paramedics, Dan and Sue Farren, were in the crowd that day to watch their own son play baseball. Dan Farren is a Captain for the City of Petaluma Fire Department and his wife, Sue Farren, is an Executive with Falck Ambulance.

This event highlights how bystander CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) saves lives. It takes first responders an average of five minutes to arrive at the scene of a medical emergency from the time a 911 call is made. Once someone's heart stops beating, brain damage will begin within 3-5 minutes. CPR "buys time" for first responders to arrive with advanced life support medications and defibrillation devices. People that receive bystander CPR before the arrival of first responders have a three times higher likelihood of survival over those that don't. On a national average, over 90% of cardiac arrest victims do not survive. Over 80% of sudden cardiac deaths occur at home. Knowing CPR may very well save a loved one's life.

During 2012, twenty-eight people in Petaluma died from sudden cardiac arrest. Only half of those people received bystander CPR. Two people were brought back to life by Petaluma Fire Department personnel in 2012, both having received bystander CPR prior to their arrival. One person received Automated External Defibrillator (AED) deployment prior to first responders arriving. AEDs are devices that you often see in public places that are automated and easy to use. They provide a life-saving shock to people with lethal heart rhythms. If the person doesn't need the shock, the machine will not allow it to happen.

In this instance, Dan and Sue, two highly trained, professional paramedics, came to the rescue and are true heroes! However, you don't have to be a paramedic or firefighter to be a hero. All it takes is learning CPR and being willing to act when the time comes.

The Petaluma Fire Department, along with the Petaluma Area Chamber of Commerce 2012/13 Leadership Class, will be providing free "Hands-Only" CPR training this spring and summer at Casa Grande, Petaluma, San Antonio and St. Vincent's High Schools, as well as at other community events throughout the year. Look for them at Butter and Eggs Day in front of the Downtown Fire Station on April 27th, at the Salute to American Graffiti on May 18th, at City Hall on May 20th from 5:30-6:55 before the regular Council Meeting and at the Petaluma Evening Farmers Markets on Second Street on June 5th and 26th.

"Hands-Only" CPR is sanctioned by the American Heart Association and only takes a few minutes to learn and practice. Our motto is "Anyone can be a Hero. Learn CPR." For more information regarding "Hands-Only" CPR, please consider visiting www.heart.org/handsonlycpr, <https://www.facebook.com/heartsafepetaluma> and <http://cityofpetaluma.net/firedept/ems.html>.



Videos about hands-only CPR

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5hP4DIBCEE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1ExB8yCxc8>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBtuXRgMf_A