

## **WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU NEED US!**

### **CRIT FIRE DEPARTMENT IS YOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE**

**Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Fire Fighters, Wild Land Fire Fighters, Divers**

Heart attacks and trauma are major causes of death and disability in Arizona and across the United States. Death can be prevented and temporary or permanent disabilities can be significantly reduced with timely first aid and emergency medical care.

The Colorado River Indian Tribes recognizes the need for effective emergency medical care for its residents. The CRIT Fire Department is always ready to respond in the event of an emergency. The goal of the Colorado River Indian Tribes is to provide Emergency Medical Care to the people living, visiting and working in our Community, which includes the city of Parker, AZ.

The Fire Department operates two stations. We currently have four Captains; four EMT/Firefighters; one firefighter; a Secretary and the Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Chief.

Our Volunteer Association is comprised of community members who wish to make a difference in their community by responding to emergency situations. These volunteers also wish to obtain skills as an emergency provider for our community; through hands on training at emergency scenes. Many of our volunteers after seeing the tremendous results of their clinical experience in the field, further their education by enrolling in the local Arizona Western College or Mohave Community College in classes such as EMT – Basic (Emergency Medical Technician), Phlebotomy, Fire Fighter I & II, Nurses Assistant, etc. The member volume range between 8-15 volunteers at any given time.

The Fire Department responsibility is to reduce suffering from illness and injury, with the ultimate goal of saving lives.

This summary will help you to understand some of what our service offers. We hope you'll never need us, but if you do, we'll be glad to help.

### **WHO WE ARE?**

#### **Emergency Medical Technician's (EMT)**

Emergency Medical Technician's cover all techniques of emergency care as part of their responsibilities. Skills are developed in recognizing signs and symptoms of illness and injury and proper procedures of emergency care. EMT's are also required to be trained in the study of anatomy, physiology, triage, patient assessment, and stabilization of patients.

The basic field work of EMT's cover all techniques of medical emergency care ranging from life threatening to non-life threatening.

Our EMT's must be able to recognize all types of emergencies-from anxious parents with sick children to sudden heart attacks-and institute the appropriate medical treatment. They often carry out their responsibilities in contact with physicians at La Paz Regional Hospital or Parker Indian Hospital. Patient evaluation and relevant information can be relayed to the physician who, in turn, directs the necessary medical treatment.

Medical treatment in the field ranges from immobilization of simple fractures to the advanced medical treatment of a cardiac patient. These medical procedures may span a time period from five minutes to over an hour. After our crew stabilizes the patient, he/she is transported to the nearest approved medical facility.

## **FIREFIGHTER'S**

Every year, fires and other emergencies take thousands of lives and destroy property worth billions of dollars. Firefighters help protect the public against these dangers by rapidly responding to a variety of emergencies. They are frequently the first emergency personnel at the scene of a traffic accident or medical emergency and may be called upon to put out a fire, treat injuries, or perform other vital functions.

During duty hours, firefighters must be prepared to respond immediately to a fire or any other emergency that arises. Because fighting fires is dangerous and complex, it requires organization and teamwork. At every emergency scene, firefighters perform specific duties assigned by a superior officer. At fires, they connect hose lines to hydrants; operate a pump to send water to high pressure hoses, and position ladders to enable them to deliver water to the fire. They also rescue victims and provide emergency medical attention as needed, ventilate smoke-filled areas, and attempt to salvage the contents of buildings. Their duties may change several times while the company is in action. Sometimes they remain at the site of a disaster for days at a time, due to flare ups and/or other situations requiring their assistance at the scene.

Firefighters have assumed a range of responsibilities, including emergency medical services. In fact, most calls to which firefighters respond involve medical emergencies, and about half of all fire departments provide ambulance service for victims. Firefighters receive training in emergency medical procedures, (and many fire departments require them to be certified as emergency medical technicians.)

Between alarms, firefighters clean and maintain equipment, conduct practice drills and fire inspections, and participate in physical fitness activities. They also prepare written reports on fire incidents and review fire science literature to keep abreast of technological developments and changing administrative practices and policies.

## **WILD LAND FIRE FIGHTERS**

Our CRIT Fire Department Crews are trained in Urban Interface Wild land firefighting due to the area we serve. When fires break out, our crew is available to assist the CRIT Wild Land Crew get the fire under control. Our firefighters are brought in to help suppress the blaze using heavy equipment, hand tools, and water hoses. Wild land firefighting, like urban firefighting, can be rigorous work. One of the most effective means of battling the blaze is by creating fire lines through cutting down trees and digging out grass and all other combustible vegetation, creating bare land in the path of the fire that deprives it of fuel. These types of fires require hours and hours of vigorous work in extreme heat and plenty of help is needed in these types of fires, usually half our crew (including off duty EMT/Firefighter's) are on scene to assist.

## **DIVERS**

Finally, some of our crew members are certified Divers. They respond to emergencies where their expertise as divers is greatly needed. The majority of the Diving calls are related to vehicles in the water, drowning, etc. They do assist in the recovery or rescue of victims in the ditches, canals or river.

## **SUMMARY OF CRIT FIRE CREW**

Our crew spends much of their time at the fire station, when an alarm sounds, firefighters respond rapidly, regardless of the weather or hour. EMT/Firefighting involves risk of death or injury from sudden cave-ins of floors, toppling walls, traffic accidents when responding to calls, and exposure to flames and smoke. Our EMT/Firefighters may also come in contact with poisonous, flammable, or explosive gases and chemicals, as well as radioactive or other hazardous materials that may have immediate or long-term effects on their health. For these reasons, they must wear protective gear that can be very heavy and hot.

Our EMT/firefighters work hours vary more widely than hours of most other workers. In some local area Fire Stations they are on duty for 24 hours, then off for 48 hours, and receive an extra day off at intervals. Our crew work twelve (12) hour shifts, twenty-four (24) hours a day. In addition, firefighters often work extra hours at fires and other emergencies and are regularly assigned to work on holidays. Our Fire Captains often work the same hours as the firefighters they supervise. Also their duty hours include time when they study, train, and perform fire prevention duties.

Applicants for our crews must pass a written exam; tests of strength, physical stamina, coordination, and agility; and a medical examination that includes drug screening.

Workers may be monitored on a random basis for drug use after accepting employment. The completion of community college courses in fire science may improve an applicant's chances for hire.

As a rule, Our crew must complete EMT courses and Firefighter I & II within a years time of being hired, in which they receive firefighting techniques, fire prevention, hazardous materials control, local building codes, and emergency medical procedures, including first

aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. They also learn how to use axes, chain saws, fire extinguishers, ladders, and other firefighting and rescue equipment.

Among the personal qualities we look for in our firefighters are self-discipline, courage, mechanical aptitude, endurance, strength, and a sense of public service. Initiative and good judgment are also extremely important because firefighters make quick decisions in emergencies.

Mental alertness is a big factor in this type of field as our fire personnel do respond to emergencies that sometimes do not have a favorable outcome. All calls are responded to in a professional manner but call involving deceased persons, victims of violence, and calls involving children & the elderly are some of the major factors that affect the mentality of our personnel.

Because our crew members work closely together under conditions of stress and danger for extended periods, they must be dependable and able to get along well with others. Leadership qualities are necessary for our Captains who must establish and maintain discipline and efficiency, as well as direct the activities of firefighters in their companies.

Our most experienced firefighters continue studying to improve their job performance to serve our community, by taking courses at our local Arizona Western College or Mohave Community College.

The challenge of CRIT Fire Department is to build a feeling of oneness, of dependence on one another, because the question is usually not how well each person works, but how well they work together.