



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** October 19, 2016

### **CITY OF SALEM CONTACTS**

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Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta información, por favor llame (503) 588-6178.

## **City of Salem Fire Department in Conjunction with the Salem Fire Foundation Achieves 80 Percent Cardiac Survival Rate**

### ***First Life Saved by Off-Duty Firefighter Using PulsePoint Technology Application***

City of Salem residents in cardiac arrest have a very good chance of survival. In fact, Salem's cardiac survival rate is among the highest in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Due to the persistent efforts of the Salem Fire Department and the Salem Fire Foundation, Salem has a record-setting 80 percent survival rate which was first achieved in 2015. The measure is based on the (UTSTEIN 1) industry standard and includes the following criteria: 1.) the collapse is witnessed, 2.) the collapse has a cardiac origin, 3.) a bystander intervenes with CPR and/or AED, and 4.) the patient is in a shockable rhythm when fire department paramedics arrive.

The cardiac survival rate in Salem has risen dramatically over the past few years. SFD attributes this to their three-pronged approach:

1. High Performance Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), also known as "Pit Crew CPR", an approach to a cardiac arrest incident that emphasizes defined roles and responsibilities as well as efficient, planned use of personnel on scene to provide the highest ratio of compressions, in conjunction with other advanced life support procedures.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖  
Servicios razonables de alojamiento y accesibilidad se facilitarán por petición

2. Increased public availability of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), [including 32 installed throughout the community](#), as well as 64 AEDs installed in all Salem Police vehicles. Increased awareness of the PulsePoint app which allows for everyday citizens to help out in the time of need during a sudden cardiac arrest. The community currently has 5,056 people signed up for PulsePoint but needs more people to sign up for this free lifesaving app.
3. High rates of CPR training for community members as well as students. In 2015, with the financial assistance of the Salem Fire Foundation, more than 2,700 8th grade students were trained in CPR and AED skills. These students in turn trained an additional 845 people including their parents, neighbors and siblings. It is expected that another 2,800-3,000 students will be trained in 2016. The Salem Fire Foundation hopes to eventually teach 75% of our population these lifesaving skills. Chief Niblock states that “More than 50% of the sudden cardiac arrests in Salem occur in the home and it’s very important for everyone to have these basic skills in order to save a loved one.”

“In 2014, SFD adopted an innovative, three-pronged approach to cardiac arrest intervention,” said Salem Fire Chief Mike Niblock. “We have implemented ways to rapidly deliver high-quality emergency medical services when people need it. Salem community members are alive today because of these improvements.”

### **Saving Lives**

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths. At the July 11 City Council meeting, City Manager Steve Powers, shared that the first life was saved in City of Salem thanks to an off-duty Salem firefighter using the [PulsePoint technology application](#). PulsePoint alerts CPR-trained bystanders to a cardiac emergency in their immediate vicinity, so they can get to the scene and start CPR in the critical lifesaving minutes before Emergency Medical Services teams arrive. To learn more and download the application, please visit: [bit.ly/salempulsepoint](http://bit.ly/salempulsepoint).

### **Basic CPR and AED Awareness Course**

This course is ideal for anyone wanting to learn basic CPR skills, choking relief, and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) awareness, and does not need a CPR course completion card to meet a job requirement. The class will provide hands-on training, and will be instructed by Salem Fire Department personnel who regularly practice and perform these life-saving skills. Training classes are scheduled on the first and third Saturday each month and cost \$15 per student.

**Location:** Salem Fire, Training, 2740 25<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Salem, OR 97302

Please call 503-588-6245 to schedule your training.

**Note:** This course will not certify participants through the American Heart Association and attendees will not receive a certificate of completion for this class.

### **About The Salem Fire Department**

For more information about the Salem Fire Department, please call 503-588-6245 or visit:  
<http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/Fire/Pages/default.aspx>.

### **About the Salem Fire Foundation**

For more information about the Salem Fire Foundation, or to find out how you can help, please visit  
[salemfirefoundation.org](http://salemfirefoundation.org).

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