

## NEWS RELEASE



Southern Platte Fire Protection District  
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### **Inaugural Graduation Held for New EMT-I's**

Parkville, MO (April 28, 2011) – IHM, Health Studies (St. Louis) held its first graduation of Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate students at Southern Platte Fire Protection District's Training Center on April 27th. This was the first of its kind in the State of Missouri.

After many years of development of the regulatory guidelines and course it was decided to implement the pilot course at Southern Platte Fire Protection District. The District enrolled eleven employees in the program last Fall. One employee had to withdraw early in the program due to unforeseen family obligations. Of the remaining ten students, all successfully graduated with honors.

Fire Chief Richard Carrizzo stated that he was very proud of all the students and the entire organization for everything that each employee gave to make this such a huge success. "It wasn't just the students that gave up so much of their time in studies, practical skill evaluation, clinicals, and ambulance ride along time, but also each of the other employees who supported their fellow firefighter in their quest to improve, by providing emotional support, assistance in studying and making sure shifts were covered so all could excel," continued Chief Carrizzo.

All Southern Platte Fire District's employees are licensed Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) with six holding the license of Paramedic. Three of the six recently completed and early this Spring were licensed by the State Bureau of EMS.

David Rierson, Division Chief explained "EMT-I's have skills, knowledge and abilities over EMT's, but a little less than the paramedic level." "By having this level of knowledge and skills within the employees, it will elevate our services to an advanced life support system for the patrons of the District", he continued.

Providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) systems has been a strategic goal for the District throughout the last few years and now is approaching an implemental stage, stated Rierson. The ALS service will be provided by the Southern Platte Fire Protection District through its normal response vehicles being operated today. This will be in conjunction

with Southern Platte Ambulance District's contracted transporting agency. Chief Rierson explained that additional ALS equipment will be carried on the fire trucks and operated by the trained, licensed paramedics and EMT-I's. The District plans to fully implement the program later this year at no additional cost to the citizens.

Fire Chief Carrizzo explained that when this goal was formed into the District's Strategic Plan, the District began to budget for the training, additional equipment purchases, and other related expenses knowing that this was going to be a huge benefit to everyone that may call for service within the District in the future. One of the main action items in the planning stages was to ensure that there would not be additional costs to the taxpayer and this has been accomplished.

The Southern Platte Fire Protection District's four stations provide fire suppression, inspections, emergency medical assistance, hazardous-materials response, and public education for more than 37,000 citizens in Platte County, MO. The Southern Platte Fire Protection District, which includes Parkville, Weatherby Lake, and Farley, is one of the fastest-growing areas in the Kansas City metropolitan area. In addition to serving its own District, the department provides automatic-aid assistance to the Kansas City Fire Department and Riverside Public Safety.

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