

# Are more Paramedics Elemental or Detimental?

Lessons learned from an ALS Expansion Program

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# ABQ Fire

- ~700 Uniformed members, 220 ALS providers
- 182sq ml response area/~900,000 pop
- ~81,000 Calls for service 2012, >80% EMS
- MPDS-EMS 20% D/E, 36% C/D/E coded calls '12
- ALS Fire-based 1<sup>st</sup> Response- Non-Transport



# ABQ Fire

- 22 Stations
- 19 ALS Rescue ambulances
- 22 BLS Engines
- 7 BLS Ladders
- 3 Squads- 2 HazMat, 1 HTR
- 4 Battalion Chief Officers
- 1 EMS QA PM Captain



# ABQ Fire

- Dual EMS Response
  - ALS or BLS Fire, ALS Transport Agency- AAS



# What's the EMS Norm?

- Best I can tell its like politics- all local!
  - Eagles survey on ALS response across country recently
  - Answers all over the place!
    - 2 P's, P & B/I, 2 P's on “ALS” calls, 1-2 P's & 3-4 EMT's on ALS Engine Comp, 2 P's and EMT on ambulance, P QRV, 2 P's & 2 EMT's on ambulance, 4-6 P's & 2-4 EMT's on 9E's
    - NFPA 1710- 5.3.3.3.4- ALS response 2 P's/2 B's



# ABQ ALS Expansion

- Goal- All Engines & Rescues be ALS staffed
- Want to better distribute and utilize PM pool
- Want to insure ALS **KNOWLEDGE** on all calls
- Want to build ALS redundancy for each response district
- WANT TO PROVIDE THE BEST CARE TO OUR CUSTOMERS- THE PUBLIC!!



# What it is NOT

- Is saying that our system needs fewer Medics
- LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN W/ CAPS LOCK  
BOLD!
- **NOT SAYING THAT WE NEED  
FEWER MEDICS**



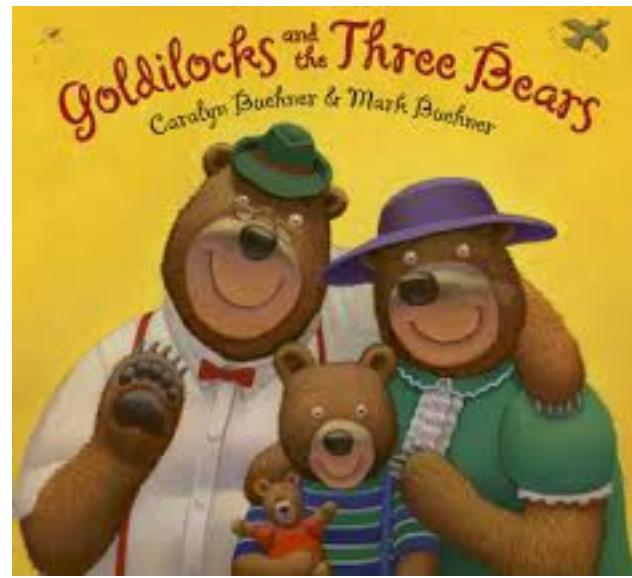


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# Like Goldilocks...

- ABQ's PM numbers are just right for cardiac arrest!



# ABQ ALS Expansion

- **Cardiac arrest survival depends Medic experience.**  
Sayre et al. Acad Emerg Medicine, May '06.
  - Showed % survival to D/C has a sweet spot relative to annual cases/yr per Medic
    - $1.16/\text{yr} = 5\% \text{ survival}$
    - $2.62/\text{yr} = 30\% \text{ survival}$
    - $4.68/\text{yr} = 27\% \text{ survival}$
    - **AFD for 2012 = 3.04/Medic/yr- Just Right!**



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# ABQ ALS Expansion

- But we need more Medics on scene Doc!
- Get more things done quicker, with fewer errors!
- Are we sure about that?



# ABQ ALS Expansion

- **Do ambulance crews w/ 1 PM have longer scene times than crews w/ 2?**. Kelly & Currell. Emerg Med Journ, 2002, 19.
  - 1537 “time critical” cases
  - Mixed crews- 15.54m scene times
  - ALS crew- 16.92m scene times



# ABQ ALS Expansion

## IMPACT OF AMBULANCE CREW CONFIGURATION ON SIMULATED CARDIAC ARREST RESUSCITATION

Ryan Bayley, EMT-P, BA, Matthew Weinger, MD, Stephen Meador, EMT-P, Corey Slovis, MD

- Prehospital Emergency Care, Vol. 12, 2008
- 2 grps of 15- P/P and P/B
- 2 P grp
  - more errors and no quicker w/ most interventions
  - Quicker ETI only event of note



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# ABQ ALS Expansion

- Goal- All Engines & Rescues be ALS staffed
  - The “HOW?” is the sticky wicket.
  - Each system will determine what works best for itself
  - **BUT use pt outcomes and data to drive decisions**
  - Labor & Management get to tackle the details
    - Who to what seat?



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# Thank You

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