BUCKEYE’S COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM, FIRE CHIEF AND FIREFIGHTERS’ UNIT RECEIVE EMS HEROES HONORS AT ABRAZO HEALTHCARE RECOGNITION EVENT

Buckeye’s Community Paramedicine Program, Fire Chief Bob Costello and a team of firefighters were honored recently during Abrazo Healthcare’s EMS Heroes recognition event.

Costello received the Paul Johnson Award for demonstrating the highest levels of professionalism in his duties; Costello and the City of Buckeye received the Community Action Award for providing EMS care for the community; and a Buckeye firefighter crew led by Deputy Fire Chief Dave Dubois received the “Best Save” award for saving the life of a two-year-old near-drowning victim.

The Community Paramedicine Program is a pilot program that has vaulted onto the national stage as a potential new national standard as another community healthcare option. It provides for paramedics to make house calls designed to reduce the hospital readmission rates while helping discharged patients stay on the road to good health.

In the past year, the program has received more than 170 patient referrals from Banner Estrella Medical Center, which has seen a significant reduction in all-cause hospital readmission rates.

The program is one of the first of its kind to have forged a partnership with a hospital, thanks to the efforts of Costello and Dr. Todd Clever, the hospital’s prehospital medical director and Buckeye Fire Department medical director.

The firefighters receiving the “Best Save” award included Dubois and crewmembers Jeremy Dowden, Michael Selzam, Cody Rounds, Mike Sands and Tommy Taylor.

In March 2015, the crew was called to a home and found the father doing CPR on a 2-year-old child found face down in a pool. Dubois took over the CPR and other paramedics continued life-saving techniques.

When the child began having seizures, they followed with life support techniques while enroute to Phoenix Children’s Hospital. Two weeks after the incident, the child, who made a full recovery, and family visited the fire station to thank the firefighters.

Chief Costello, who was recently appointed by Gov. Doug Ducey to the Arizona Emergency Medical Services Council, was honored for “routinely forming positive and meaningful relationships throughout the community and for positively impacted the level of care received by residents.”

Costello, who has served in various capacities with the Buckeye Fire Department since 2004 and its chief since 2008, was inducted into the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame in 2012.

About the City of Buckeye:

Founded in 1888, Buckeye was first settled as an agricultural town. Today, Buckeye is the country’s 15th fastest growing city (U.S. Census Bureau 2015). The reasons to live, do business and visit Buckeye extend well beyond its 360° horizons. Buckeye is pro-business, with easy access to major highways, a thoughtful plan for growth and miles of available land. Spanning 600 square miles, Buckeye’s vision for the future is as vast as its city limits. It’s truly one of the few remaining Arizona cities where opportunity can be seen in every direction and from virtually every vantage point. Buckeye . . . be a part of something big.