

GLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL SEIZURE STUDY

The Glendale Fire Department will soon begin a national seizure study that will aim towards improving pre-hospital care among seizure patients in Glendale and throughout the Nation. The Glendale Fire Department is one of 17 agencies across the country, and the only department in the state to conduct the study called RAMPART, an acronym for Rapid Anticonvulsant Medication Prior to Arrival Trial. The department is teaming up with the University of Arizona this summer to study which medicine and which method of delivering them are most effective in patients who have prolonged seizures.

Currently, when firefighters arrive to treat a patient who is suffering from a prolonged seizure in a pre-hospital setting, that patient receives medicine either intravenously (in the vein) or intramuscular (in the muscle). Unfortunately it is unknown which method works best. Under the RAMPART study, Glendale Firefighters will administer the medication if the patient is still in a seizure when they arrive. Each patient will receive two types of medicine: one will be administered intravenously and one will be administered intramuscular. In each case, one method will deliver an active medication and one method will deliver a placebo.

During the 5 year study, seizure patients treated by Glendale Firefighters will receive a different medicine that is currently used by Valley paramedics, but the new medications are considered at least as effective as the current one, UA medical-research officials said. "We see this as an excellent opportunity to deliver the best care possible to seizure patients in our community," said Mark Burdick, Glendale Fire Chief. Glendale Firefighter Paramedics have been trained for the study which is expected to begin sometime in Summer 2009.

Residents seeking more information or who wish to opt out of the study may call 602-827-2140.