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GLENDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPLOYS NEW FIRE UNIT TO REDUCE CALL VOLUME

Glendale, Ariz. —Glendale Fire Department has deployed a new fire unit in an effort to reduce the use of emergency apparatus for non-life-threatening responses. The unit is called “LA151” and it stands for Low Acuity 151 which means it will handle calls that are non-life-threatening in nature. These non-emergent calls generate some 9,000 calls for assistance each year in Glendale that are normally handled by either a busy paramedic ladder or engine company that could be serving on more serious calls elsewhere in the City.

Calls that do not need a fire truck and a four person crew will be routed to LA151 thus reducing engine or ladder company responses in Glendale’s already over-burdened fire and EMS response system.

LA151 is staffed by a Captain Paramedic and EMT Firefighter. The unit will be dispatched on non-life threatening calls but have the ability to call for additional resources if necessary once on scene. The crew recently underwent training in Mesa and Chandler to observe similar systems.

Glendale Fire Department responded to approximately 37,000 calls for service in 2014 and individual apparatus response rates currently exceed the national average of about 2,000 calls per unit. About 50% of Glendale’s fire apparatus fleet is responding to over 3,000 calls per year with some of those calls being low acuity in nature.

LA151 will be one year pilot and additional low acuity units may be placed into service if the pilot data supports the low acuity response concept. Glendale Fire will evaluate the unit’s efficiency over the next many months and determine a further course of action while continuing to serve the community.



Captain Paramedic Roman Barriga and Firefighter Roger Thompson pose next to Glendale Fire's new Low Acuity response unit.

Photo courtesy: Glendale Fire Public Information Division.

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