Safe Station – A New and Unique Resource for Addiction Recovery

The Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS (Colerain Fire and EMS) is a recognized leader in both Emergency Medical Services and addiction recovery resources. Colerain has been nationally recognized for the proliferation of its Quick Response Team (QRT). The QRT is composed of a firefighter/paramedic, law enforcement officer, and addiction recovery expert who conduct rapid follow-up visits to those suffering from substance abuse disorder after being treated by the Colerain Department of Fire and EMS. The goal of that follow-up visit is to connect the individual with the recovery resources necessary to combat this brain disease.

Colerain Fire and EMS is proud to announce the initiation of its Safe Station Program (SSP). The SSP, which first began in Manchester, NH, will be put into place in Colerain beginning November 1st as an additional means to connect individuals suffering from substance abuse disorder with recovery resources within a safe and non-judgmental environment. This important program is made possible with the collaboration of Addiction Services Council of Cincinnati (ASCC).

All five Colerain Township fire stations will accept individuals who are willingly seeking opportunities to be connected with recovery resources as walk-in patients for the purpose of initiating the recovery process. This service will be made available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Colerain firefighter-paramedics will conduct field in-take assessments to those seeking recovery help. Following the initial assessment, Colerain fire personnel will contact the ASCC for either an immediate follow-up and transportation to their site on Vernon Place, or if after intake hours, an appointment the next day with ASCC personnel to determine the appropriate level of care indicated by their clinician using the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria.

All patients at that time will be given a Narcan kit supplied by Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) agency as a means to bridge a life-gap in the continuum of care.

The ASC will make any transportation arrangements, if needed, for the next day assessment and will provide continuous recovery monitoring for each patient entering the program.

The Safe Station Program is another Community Risk Reduction service provided by the Colerain Township Department of Fire and EMS whose goal is to “Make Colerain a Safer Community, One Home at a Time.”

For more information, contact Assistant Chief Will Mueller at 513-923-5045 wmueller@colerain.org or Special Project Manager Robert Rielage at 513-728-9978 rrielage@colerain.org

The Colerain Township Department of Fire – EMS holds the prestigious Class 1 Public Protection Classification from the Insurance Service Office (ISO), an organization that independently evaluates municipal fire protection throughout the United States. Colerain is the only department to achieve such a ranking in the Greater Cincinnati area, and is one of less than 200 Fire / EMS departments to achieve this ranking nationally.