



**HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2009

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Survivor Luau

35 Cardiac Arrest Survivors to Meet their Rescuers and Tell Their Story

Thursday, August 6, 2009

6:00pm – 9:00pm

50 Waugh Drive

United Way Community Resource Center

Every day, the Houston Fire Department responds to several victims of sudden death syndrome or cardiac arrest. Over 35 of these survivors and their grateful families will meet the rescuers that saved their lives during a Survivor Luau sponsored by Medilife of Houston (501c3).

Some of the stories to be shared during this event are:

A few weeks ago, a 49 year old Bush IAH employee suddenly collapses and fellow airport employees use an AED and help him regain a pulse. HFD responded and provided other lifesaving treatment. He is recovering after receiving an implanted defibrillator. His grateful family wants to thank all those that helped him survive.

A lady was found slumped over in her car in a deserted downtown street suffering a cardiac arrest. She and her family will finally meet the bystanders that drove up and called 9-1-1. HFD responded and rescued her, started CPR and hypothermia treatment. She has fully recovered!

In January, a 12 year old child collapses in his home after playing sports. His family checks him for a pulse and calls 9-1-1. They start CPR until HFD arrives and uses a defibrillator. He regains a pulse! He has since recovered and this family finally gets to meet the firefighters that helped save their son.

A grateful family will say "Thank You!" to HFD firefighters that fought fire at their home and saved their father. He suffered a cardiac arrest while he watched firefighters fight the fire on his house.

A person was assisted by fellow employees with an AED when he collapsed at work when his heart stopped. HFD arrived and took over his care. Last year he received a heart transplant and is back at work!

A female ticket agent at the airport suddenly collapses and a Houston Police officer uses CPR and an AED before HFD arrives. HFD continues care and she regains a pulse. That was 4 years ago and is she is still going strong! She wants to say thanks again to the police officer and the firefighters.

The First Responders, EMT's, Paramedics and 9-1-1 call takers involved in saving the citizens have been invited to the event. The Director & Public Health Authority Dr. David Perse, M.D. will emcee the event with special remarks by survivors and their families.

We encourage media to come to the event and hear more stories of people who have been given another opportunity to live and share birthdays, weddings and happy occasions with their families!

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Working Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

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