

Mountain View Fire Introduces Vial of Life Program

What if you were suddenly incapacitated, tried to call 911 and then couldn't answer the responder's questions? How would they know what medications you were taking? How would they know who your doctor is? How would they know your medical history so you could be treated in the quickest and most efficient manner? For the vast majority of people, responders could waste precious time trying to find this vital information.

What if there were a way that emergency responders could know your pertinent medical history, the medications you are taking, and any other pertinent information within seconds, just by picking up an information packet?

The Mountain View Fire Protection District has the answers to these and other similar questions. The Fire District has recently begun using the "Vial of Life Program." By participating, at no cost to you, emergency personnel can have key information about you within seconds. By simply placing a Vial of Life sticker on your front door or a front window, you can alert firefighters and paramedics responding to your residence that you are a participant. They will then look for the provided magnet holding the information packet placed on the front of your refrigerator with some or all of the following contents:

1. The Vial of Life information form should be filled out as completely as possible. (Your information is protected and will never be disclosed to anyone who is not directly involved in your medical care.)
2. For positive identification purposes, providing a picture of yourself would be helpful.
3. A copy of your last EKG will greatly assist the emergency personnel (your doctor should provide you with a copy).
4. If applicable, place your Living Will or equivalent, in your packet.
5. Place any Allow Natural Death (AND) or Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) documentation in the packet, if you so choose.
6. Place any other documentation you feel is important in the packet.

When you decide to participate you will receive a kit that includes a magnet, a plastic packet to hold all the information, a red vial of life sticker to be placed on your front door or window, the emergency medical information sheet and instructions.

You can receive a kit by contacting Mountain View Fire at 303-772-0710 or you can stop by the Administration offices located at 9119 East County Line Road, Longmont, CO, and pick one up.