



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Communications and External Affairs

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South Fulton Fire Rescue Training to Utilize Air Transport For Emergency Calls

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – August 2, 2021) – South Fulton firefighters are adding another life-saving resource to help patients who need urgent care during emergencies.

When dispatchers receive an emergency call, they prioritize the response to determine the availability of ambulance services. A delta or echo level call provides advanced life support to a patient.

“South Fulton is one of several Fulton County cities that utilizes Grady Hospital for ambulance services when our firefighters respond to calls for traumas or car accidents,” said Chad Jones, fire chief for South Fulton Fire Rescue. “Response time is critical when saving the life of a patient. We have encountered situations to where the response time is delayed and that is why I felt it was imperative to get our firefighters trained on how to utilize air transport.”

Fire Chief Jones says using air transport services during an emergency can reduce transport time from potentially 45 minutes traveling by ambulance in metro Atlanta traffic to 10-12 minutes via air transport.

“Until we can get an urgent care facility or hospital in our city, the closest level-one trauma and burn center is Grady,” Jones said. “Any child that has a severe medical condition or trauma must go to Atlanta.”

AirLife, an air medical transport company, will provide training to firefighters on how to respond at the scene of an incident when air transport is involved.

Each firefighter will receive continuing education credits and a certificate to verify completion of the two-and-half hour training, which will include a presentation and live aircraft demonstration.

-MORE-



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Welcome All Park, located in the City of South Fulton, is the designated training site and located only four miles away from Atlanta's Hartsfield – Jackson International Airport. Airport officials gave appropriate clearance before scheduling the trainings to ensure everyone's safety.

During the training, AirLife flight paramedics will teach South Fulton firefighters how to establish a landing zone; how to work with a flight medical team to load a patient safely into a helicopter and transfer life-saving equipment, like intravenous (IV) fluids.

“We are still using Grady for our primary emergency transport,” Jones said. “We are just adding air transport to fill a gap in our services,”

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About the City of South Fulton

Home to more than 100,000 residents, the City of South Fulton is Georgia's fifth-largest city. It covers more than 85 square miles and features both urban and rural landscapes with the most undeveloped land on metro Atlanta's southern side. Incorporated on May 1, 2017, South Fulton is among Georgia's youngest and fast-growing cities – on the rise and recognized as the place you want to be. Learn more at cityofsouthfultonga.gov.

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WHERE:

Welcome All Park
4255 Will Lee Rd. College Park, GA 30349

WHEN:

Wednesday, August 4
9:00 a.m. until noon

Thursday, August 5
9:00 a.m. until noon

VISUAL & SOUND OPPORTUNITIES:

- Arrival and departure of medical aircraft
- South Fulton firefighters completing hands-on training activities
- Interview with Fire Chief Chad Jones, Capt. Blackmon or Lt. Lewis
- Reaction about life-saving training from nearby residents

****Suggested media arrival time is Wednesday, August 4, at 10:30 a.m. to film landing of aircraft****