

**June 12, 2014 – Press release from the Oak Lawn Fire Department:**

The Oak Lawn Fire & Rescue Department has been awarded the American Heart Association's Silver Mission Lifeline Award. The award is given to pre-hospital providers who meet or exceed the standard for heart patient care. This is the inaugural year of this award, and only 200 awards were given out nationally.

With the advancements in cardiac monitoring devices, and prompt treatment by paramedics, the doctors are now able to visually see the patient's electrocardiogram (12-lead EKG) while paramedics are in the field. The early transmission of this EKG allows the cardiac doctors and their team to meet the patient upon arriving to the Emergency Room, saving precious time. In order to receive the award, those patients who are having a heart attack, must have their heart artery opened in less than 90 minutes, so paramedics must act quickly.



Pictured left to right: Assistant Chief Scott Boman, Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Curran, EMS Bureau Chief Gary Bettenhausen, Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Jaeger and Fire Chief George Sheets