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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver Health Paramedic Division's EMT training program simulates urgent patient handoff to emergency department team

DENVER (Oct. 3, 2024) — The Denver Health Paramedic Division's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program facilitated a hands-on, integrated scenario at the Rita Bass Trauma and EMS Institute Thursday evening for EMT students to simulate the full experience of running a 911 call.

This unique simulation ensures transitions in care happen seamlessly when Denver community members are in their most critical time of need. Through the simulation, EMT students demonstrate proficiency in the critical patient handoff process from the ambulance to an emergency department care team.

"For a lot of EMTs, the first time they run a full call is the first day on the job," Henry Stoffer, Denver Health Paramedic Division EMT school instructor, said. "This simulation is meant to stress students out. We want them to feel the urgency of the life-or-death situations they will face in an ambulance and recognize there is no time to waste in the handoff."

The simulated patient story involved a rock climber who lost his grip and fell 20 feet. When EMTs responded to the call, the patient was unresponsive with obvious head trauma and an open fracture on his leg.

The patient's condition worsened into cardiac arrest on the way to the hospital, emphasizing the critical importance of a smooth transition in care upon arrival at the hospital. A simulated emergency department care team was present upon arrival.

"I definitely felt the adrenaline rush when the patient's condition deteriorated into cardiac arrest," Rio Sueyoshi, an EMT student participating in the simulation, said. "It gives me confidence to have this experience and know I'll be ready to help people in their most critical moments when I finish my training."

The Denver Health Paramedic Division responds to more than 120,000 calls per year. EMT students get the opportunity to learn in a high-volume, fast-paced urban setting, gaining exposure to a wide variety of clinical situations.

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About Denver Health Paramedics EMS Education – EMT Training Program

The Denver Health Paramedics EMT training program follows the National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards and is designed to teach students basic medical skills needed to respond in an emergency situation. During the course, students receive approximately 150 hours of both didactic and skills training from paramedics who actively work in the field. In addition, EMT students have the opportunity to complete a shift in one of the busiest emergency departments in the region with both adult and pediatric trauma capabilities.

About Denver Health

Denver Health is a comprehensive health and hospital system that provides high-quality care and proudly serves as the city's safety net hospital. For more than 160 years, Denver Health has been guided by its mission to serve the people of Denver, to educate the next generation of health care professionals and to engage in research and community partnerships to better deliver the health care needs of our patients while strengthening our community.

