



For more information, contact: Beth von Behren
Public Information Officer, City of Kirkwood
139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122
314-822-5894 or 314-495-7382 (cell)

For Immediate Release

Kirkwood Fire/EMS Gets New Tool for Helping Pediatric Patients

May 2018

Kirkwood, Missouri: The Kirkwood Fire Department has acquired a new tool to help its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff better administer medication to pediatric patients. Paramedics will be able to use a mobile app that utilizes the Handtevy Method software to help them save the lives of children on emergency calls.

When firefighter-paramedics are called to an emergency involving a critically ill or injured child, every second counts. Treating children is difficult, stressful, and time-sensitive. The Handtevy Method helps to prevent over-dosing and under-dosing by focusing on the age of the patient. It allows EMS crews to look up the right dosage and administer it quickly. The mobile app is faster and more accurate than the old method, which relied on measuring younger patients from head to toe using a tape measure and then doing a manual calculation.

The Handtevy Pediatric Resuscitation System software, combined with educational and organizational tools, will help improve outcomes for pediatric patients. The system software will be installed on tablets and smartphones used by Kirkwood EMS crews. These devices will be used on the way to emergency calls to look up vital information about the patient based on age. The crews can then start preparing necessary equipment and medication before they arrive at the scene. This information will then be used at the scene and then can also be relayed ahead, while the EMS crew is en route to the hospital, to facilitate treatment.

The Handtevy system is currently in use by EMS systems around the country and by cruise lines, helicopter companies, and hospitals. "The Handtevy System provides a customized, predetermined approach to the critically ill child," said Kirkwood's Deputy Fire Chief David Smith. "It takes into account location, provider ability, and resources. When seconds count, it provides the best opportunity for a medical team to positively affect the outcome, no matter where the child is at the time."

For more information, or for a demonstration of the software, please contact Beth von Behren (contact info above) or Deputy Fire Chief David Smith at 314-984-6970. A two-minute video on the system can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFMRrZGoZf0>

###