



Scottsdale Fire Department Adopts IPMBA

by Ray Morris, EMSCI #029

Scottsdale (AZ) Fire Department

The Scottsdale Fire Department, following the lead of the Scottsdale Police Department (SPD), has adopted the IPMBA EMS Cyclist program as the standard of training for its bike team members. SPD has used the IPMBA material to lay the groundwork with the City's risk management team regarding training, personal safety equipment and operational procedures. SFD has also embraced SPD's philosophy of continuing education. Each bike team member will be required to complete an established number of training hours to maintain certification and stay on the team.

As of January 10, 2008, the SFD bike team will be staffed with 24 IPMBA-certified EMS cyclists (all of whom will be IPMBA members), have a fleet of 14 bikes and own six sets of ALS equipment. During the week of the FBR golf tournament and Super Bowl weekend, SFD will simultaneously deploy all 14 bikes as ALS. Crews will work in the city's downtown entertainment district (an area enjoyed by many during the 2005 IPMBA Conference), the FBR tournament and the Super Bowl functions. The plan is to have one set of crews to work from 6am until 6pm, while others work 3pm until 3am. These crews will supplement the regular on-duty engine companies.

Discussions are underway between SFD and neighboring fire departments about involving those other departments' bike teams, but there are concerns about training, procedures and safety differences as not all area teams have adopted IPMBA as their standard.

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