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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Miami Beach Authorizes Blood Transfusions for Trauma Patients

— The Miami Beach Fire Department becomes the first rescue agency in Miami-Dade County to provide lifesaving transfusions in the field —

Miami Beach, FL – The Miami Beach City Commission unanimously approved entering into an agreement with a regional blood supplier to provide the blood components, equipment and logistical support needed for the Miami Beach Fire Department, which is now the first agency in Miami-Dade County to perform field blood transfusions.

“Our firefighter-paramedics are among the best trained and equipped anywhere in the country,” said **Miami Beach Vice Mayor Laura Dominguez**, who sponsored the measure. “It’s now best practice to offer blood transfusions to critically injured patients on the way to the hospital or at the scene of a serious accident. We want our fire department to offer world-class care.”

The Miami Beach Fire Department’s new prehospital blood transfusion program now enables paramedics to deliver whole blood and packed red blood cells directly to patients suffering severe blood loss. While traditional IV fluids don't carry oxygen to vital organs, whole blood delivers critical oxygen and promotes clotting during the vital "golden hour" after a traumatic injury.

"Miami Beach is setting the standard for public safety,” said **Miami Beach Mayor Steven Meiner.** “As the first fire rescue agency in Miami-Dade County to provide blood transfusions in the field, we are equipping our first responders with the advanced training, technology and resources they need to deliver lifesaving care when seconds matter most,”

The city’s fire department is now among only 2% of fire departments in Florida that have the capability to offer blood transfusions in the field.

“Severe bleeding remains one of the leading causes of preventable death in the case of traumatic injuries,” explained **Miami Beach Fire Chief Digna Abello**. “The blood is stored in the EMS captain’s response vehicle, allowing units to be deployed to emergency scenes throughout all parts of the city.”

“For every minute of delay in treating mass blood loss, mortality increases by 11%,” Abello added. “This program enhances our ability to provide advanced trauma care and improves outcomes for those experiencing critical injuries.”

The department is partnering with OneBlood and Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center to establish a reliable blood supply. Units are stored in state-of-the-art, temperature-controlled medical refrigerators.

“This is a great step forward for our department and for the citizens of Miami Beach,” said **Miami Beach Fire Departments Medical Director Dr. Frederick Keroff**. “A recent study demonstrated that the in-hospital mortality in the patients who received blood in the prehospital setting was 7% compared to those patients who received their blood products at the Trauma Center where the in-hospital morality was 29%.”

The Miami Beach Fire Department encourages residents to support the effort by donating blood at their local blood donation centers.

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